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THE TOTALITARIAN STATE

BY

HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF MADRAS

GENESIS OF THE STATE

THE Middle Ages did not speak of States. They spoke of the Papacy, Kingdoms, Empires, Cities and Republics. Speaking of Power, they distinguished between temporal power and spiritual power. Peoples were called nations, classes, corporations or guilds. The idea of State as we mean it now had no currency then. It is only at the time of the Reformation and counter-Reformation that the idea of State acquired consistency as though it were an effective reality. Created by a need, as all words are, the word State was first used in Italy to indicate stability, precisely at the time when stability of power, surety of independence were conspicuous by their absence in all those petty principalities, dukedoms, marquisates and pseudo-republics which were spread all over the country.

The identification of the State with the Prince was the first manifestation of the idea of the State, and Machiavelli was its theorist. For Machiavelli "the ends of the Ruler", writes Don Luigi Sturzo, "demand the subordination of the ends of subjects. Means are indifferent, so much the better if they are honourable but

even unscrupulous means, if useful, are not to be excluded. Religion is good inasmuch as it keeps the people quiet: morality is useful inasmuch as it furthers the general well-being, but above religion and morality stand politics understood as the art of domination and of maintaining strength. Machiavelli had no liking for crime, but when it proved a path to success he admired its results."

Luther gave all powers, even ecclesiastical powers, into the hands of the princes, who were not controlled either by the Church or the people. "Machiavelli," states Don Luigi Sturzo, "had subordinated the ends of religion to the ends of the State as personified in the Prince. Luther went further—his theory of the servile will separated morals from faith and left the whole moral life and religious organisation in the hands of the sole temporal authority."

The theory of Machiavelli's empiricism and that of Luther's servile will did not seem adequate to many and the theory of 'Sovereignty' appeared. It is the power to make laws without being bound by them. In modern times this theory became

general and by the second half of the seventeenth century it was more or less accepted by all. Invested with a divine character, Sovereignty had become the Divine Right of Kings.

Bossuet expressed it in Galican form—Protestant and Anglican theologians upheld it as a twofold absolutism, civil and religious. Rome opposed both attitudes, protecting the rights of the people.

The Natural Law theory with Hobbes as its chief exponent came in time to save the Divine Right. According to this theory, men were such that being unable at the beginning to form a society and give themselves laws, they ceded their potential sovereignty to a chief. According to Rousseau it was not the people that ceded their sovereignty but this was usurped by the monarchs. Between the two conceptions, Bossuet's Sovereignty by Divine Right and Hobbes' Sovereignty by Natural Right, a third developed, Rousseau's Sovereignty of the People. This Sovereignty was absolute but it had to be delegated to representatives who could be recalled or re-elected at fixed periods. This was Democracy. I shall not speak of the three Germans whose conceptions guided the political life of the last century up to our own times, I mean Hegel, Fichte and Marx who expressed the efforts of the nineteenth century to give a meaning, a content, an absolute and all but divine finality to the state, the nation, the class; nor shall I touch the two systems; the liberal and the authoritarian systems which grew round the conception of the national state. I shall restrict myself to Totalitarianism a bitter experience as Don Luigi Sturzo puts it, "which has emerged in the

sixteen years between 1917 and 1938 and has given to Europe and the World a Bolshevik Russia, a Fascist Italy and a Nazi Germany, the three great totalitarian states differing in character, but all three of a national type and based on administrative and political centralisation, militarism, a monopoly of education and closed economic systems".

THE TOTALITARIAN STATE APPEARS

The name is of recent origin but the Assyrians and Babylonians knew the significance and the substance of it even before the name itself was coined. Those who have studied the history of the French Revolution must have seen how the Jacobins could be easily proclaimed the predecessors of the promoters of the modern totalitarian regimes: the dictatorship of a party in the name of the community; the use of propaganda on a large scale; the excitement of the emotions of the masses, violence and terrorism; the enforcement of a uniform ideology and the persecution, proscription and disappearance of any other rival form of political and social thought.

"The Jacobin democracy of 1793-94," says Dawson, "was not only the prototype of the totalitarian state, it was also the matrix in which the many types of modern totalitarian ideology had their origin." Fascism has so to say re-established the Totalitarian State. It has defined it in the famous expression: "Nothing outside or above the state; nothing against the state, everything within the state, everything for the state." Nothing human or spiritual exists, far less, has value outside the state.

The existing totalitarian states originated all in the same way. A political party

has captured the state machine. It has re-organised the life of the whole nation according to its principles, ideology or programme. Democratic parliamentary states are, so to say, neutral, impersonal, organisations directed or worked by a party or a combination of parties which have succeeded to predominate at the moment. This sort of government has unfortunately become weak and inept due to social parties or social interests tending to overthrow one another. The democratic state, incapable of deciding on fundamental issues has shown no will, no power. Nazism, Fascism, Communism owe their triumph to a policy of revolutionary action which restored to the state a single will and purpose bending all to its aim and end.

In Germany, in Italy and in Russia, party and government form one and the same thing,—all power in the state. In the history of the world the state has never been so omnipotent and its power so highly concentrated in the hands of the Ruler whose word is the gospel. In the past, emperors and dictators seemed to have possessed unlimited power over their subjects but it has not been their privilege to mobilize all the political, economic and psychological resources of the nation and use them as they willed and wished.

In the Democratic regime the state exists only to serve the people. The Party or the Leader of the Party represents the will of the peoples.

DANGER AHEAD!

Far from all this is the conception of the Totalitarian State. The Totalitarian Party is the master of the state, the master of the people and bends everything

and everybody to its end and purpose. Liberty goes, personality is strangled. It is the invasion of human soul by the hand of power.

The problem which confronts us is: how will the Democratic states make themselves strong enough to exist still in the face of these new invading and crushing powers, without abandoning the principles of personal liberty and tolerance which are fundamental in Democracy? The future of the world depends on the solution of this problem. If England, the United States and poor defeated France, fail to preserve and save the tradition of freedom and the personality of man, no other temporal power will succeed and the whole world will be changed.

Let me conclude with the words of Sir Robertson:

"Great cultural issues, no less than great spiritual issues, are at stake today and will be in the future. Intellectually and morally, the civilized world walks on the edge of an abyss.

Two final conclusions impress themselves on my mind the more I have studied and reflected on my subject. First the spiritual freedom, which the Christian demands, and without which the Christian religion and the Christian Church cannot exist, can neither be secured nor exercised without securing and exercising other freedoms—intellectual, moral, political, social and economic: and, secondly in demanding and fighting for that spiritual freedom, the Christian is fighting also for freedoms to be enjoyed by those who may remain indifferent or are antagonistic to the Christian religion.

Such a consideration will only steel the Christian will and harden the fibre of the Christian conscience, because the right that is in issue is the right not only to find the truth but to proclaim it when found—and leave the result to human reason and the will of God. If victory in that supreme conflict comes, it will be because the Christian Church through its members has proved the truth, its faith and absoluteness of its values by the unfaltering witness and lives of Christians throughout the world."

THE RIDDLE OF INDIAN HISTORY

By MR. P. R. SRINIVAS

(Editor, "Indian Finance", Calcutta)

INDIA today is a puzzle alike to the political philosopher and the scientific sociologist. In a sense, she has always been so. And every people on the face of the world is to a large extent a puzzle to foreigners. But there is a uniqueness about the puzzle we have set ourselves and the world to solve. Soviet Russia is now the sphinx of international politics. But the riddle of Russian policy will soon be solved—if not this year, at least the next. But what India wants or what India will do, no one can tell. As I said, there is a sense in which India has always been a puzzle. And it is only in relation to the puzzle of Indian history that the puzzle of Indian politics can be understood.

What is the puzzle of Indian history? If the test of history is intelligibility, though not Trotskyan inevitability, Indian history may be deemed intelligible. It is the dull, drab story of dynastic wars and conquests, of regicides and usurpations, which may bore the reader, but not intrigue him. But that is a superficial view. Historical intelligibility is a question of ability to enter into the spirit of a race, to follow its doings and fortunes, to account for its failures, to gauge its potentialities. Indian history does not help you in any of these tasks. It is incredibly poor in its content. To all appearances, the masses have been dumb, driven cattle, driven, that is, by a tyranny that changed, not in its nature, but in its personnel. It is true there were always the signs of a high civilisation, a sprinkling of intellectuals, artists and poets, religious movements of a revivalist kind, fusion of

alien cultures with the indigenous. But the organic character of Indian society was never convincingly in evidence. No under current of social development ever galvanised the masses of people into creative activity. Neither resistance to tyranny, nor united effort for realisation of social values characterised Indian history at any period.

Therein lies the riddle of Indian history. Was India civilised? It is a question which out of sheer resentment Indians will refuse to answer. But, we must recognise, that it is quite different from the question whether there were, or are, highly civilised individuals, native to the soil, in this country. We have always been content with a resounding "yes" to the second question. But the former, too, is important, in fact, even more important than the latter. It is not always in our active consciousness.

But the riddle is not solved by saying that there have always been highly civilised individuals in India who form indubitable proof that the country is civilised. For the mark of a civilised individual is consideration for others. And a country whose civilised classes care little for the masses—well, it cannot complain if its claims to civilisation are brought into question.

To my mind, the puzzle which India sets is this. The problem of the political philosopher is how such a highly gifted and civilised community as the Hindus of India could persistently neglect the well-being of the masses. The problem of the sociologist is how such a teeming mass of humanity could be so free from

the familiar phenomena of social discontent, social upheaval, and the development of organic unity.

The question can, of course, be easily answered, if the political philosopher puts down the cultured classes in India for mere charlatans and the sociologist regards Indian society as having led a mere amoebic existence.

No careful or conscientious student can shirk the problem by giving himself such unsatisfactory answers.

There can be no doubt that the culture of the Ancient Hindus was not vitiated by indifference to the masses. Nor can it be said that Hindu society had no organic unity, though it has suffered from deep cleavages.

If we do not swing to one extreme or the other, we shall recognise that there is a problem or a riddle solved.

How is it that a great and gifted people has remained singularly indifferent to the problem of political security? The question is not of mere historic or academic interest. For even to-day when the country has had nearly two centuries of complete foreign domination, the political problem is not posed or faced as such. National energies are diverted, public attention side-tracked and the nation induced to have obsessions that are not obviously of primary political importance.

That is the deep riddle of Indian history upto the present moment, which, unlike the Russian enigma, for instance, can be solved only in the fulness of time.

For my part, I believe that Indian history does hold the clue to the solution of this riddle. The peculiarity of our history and our politics must be traced

to the uniqueness of India's achievements in the past and equally to the uniqueness of India's situation and circumstance. Here is a country which reached the summit of civilisation before the predatory races of the North-West got on the move. In the present age, it is comparatively easier to appreciate the mentality of a highly civilised people when they are confronted by powerful invaders. All the courage and heroism that a race is capable of are hurled against the invader. The tide is stemmed; and if it is rolled back, normal life can be resumed.

But if invasion persists on a large scale and for a long time, if a century's experience shows that it is not a case of beating back one attack or two, but of being buffeted by endless waves of invasion from the populous North, there has necessarily to be a more comprehensive outlook. And such an outlook on the part of a civilised race might well open its eyes to the importance of the environment in which a nation finds itself. The attitude of bowing low to the conqueror and let the thundering legions pass is the natural result of such circumstances.

But a civilised race draws the line at cultural capitulation. The Ancient Hindus had made a fine art of this policy of combining cultural integrity with political subjection. The essence of this compromise lay in preserving the individuality of Hindu society by imparting to it a more or less cast iron rigidity and teaching the individual to look for freedom in the peculiar patterns of our social life, rather in the broader spheres of national politics. This compromise has worked admirably during a period of over thousand years, when the volcano in the North has heaped

successive layers of conquering immigrants on the fair landscape of Hindusthan.

But the nemesis of this compromise has to be suffered. Contrary to modern biology, survival has rendered us less fit. The rigidity of Hindu society has rendered it unfit for action. Indifference to politics has developed into a chronic disease. Contentment in isolated segments of social life has incapacitated us for a wide outlook and concerted action. And the old attitude to invasion is so much in the blood that we cannot nerve ourselves to a new effort.

But by far the most important part of our outlook is a vague internationalism in the back of the nation's mind. A people so repeatedly subject to invasions from abroad naturally thinks that all its constructive efforts must be postponed to a time when there could be a fair assurance of order beyond the border. The true culture of the race had, so to say, to be protected from the ravages of invasion. The Hindus preferred to keep the seeds of their culture in cold storage, in the security which indifference to foreign conquest afforded them. I may refer to the parallelism, that is already evident between Modern France and ancient Hindu society.

Two basic ideas, therefore, emerge from India's experiences of the past and her contemplation and evaluation of them. One is the vague longing for an international order which would put an end to the repeated invasions of the past. And the other is non-resistance even to the point of outwardly co-operating with the conquering invader. But fundamentally, the attitude is one of biding time and reinforcing, when the time comes, the forces working for a world order.

That time is probably the present. Or possibly we are exaggerating the importance of the times we are living in. But India looks like picking up the broken threads of her history, of retrieving from cold storage the seeds of her ancient culture and tending them to a sturdy growth.

The trouble, again, is the horrible nemesis of compromise. We are still reconciling opposite ideas. Our internationalism is the internationalism of visionary non-violence. Our resistance is the resistance of non-co-operation. The national ideology is yet to develop a degree of positivity; the national plan, a degree of activity. And till they do, the riddle will remain.

Abraham Lincoln's Attitude to War

BY MR. A. VENKAPPA SASTRI, M.A.

THE Civil War in America of which Lincoln was the leading spirit is about the perfectest modern instance of war fought in the cleanest way, 'handled nobly and with imagination', an illustration of how violence itself may be rendered just, humane, and educative where a genius of pity presides at the helm.

Abraham Lincoln was installed President on March 4, 1861. On the announcement of his election prejudice grew to a head against him in the slave-owning South, who knew his views on slavery and fixed upon secession as the only means of safety. Lincoln was adamant on two points,—the preservation of the Union

and the abolition of slavery. The integrity of the States was primary and paramount, then the question of slavery. To save the Union, War must be risked, however abhorrent. *In spite of the hostile stand of the South, he would not regard them as enemies but as misguided sheep trying to break away from the flock that must be kept together.* In his very first address on assuming office, he said talking of the relations between the North and South: "We are not enemies, but friends. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart or hearth-stone all over the broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." *That was the affectionate, friendly spirit that ruled Lincoln all through.*

His first hope was that the issue between the North and the South could be settled without the arbitrament of the sword. But war could not well be avoided. *Lincoln waited for the first blow to be delivered by the South.* Till Fort Sumter fell, his policy was neither brisk nor energetic, but the fall of Sumter decided the course. 65,000 regulars and 75,000 volunteers were enlisted at the first summons. The sympathy of England, with its centuries of aristocratic tradition, lay with the South, only the workingmen of Manchester, despite the suffering and unemployment to which they were reduced, approving and admiring the stand of Lincoln. The first years of the war were a success to the Confederates. Braving the opposition of his own party *Lincoln confidently drew on the Negro population,*

authorised the admission of a hundred and thirty thousand of them into the army and paid them equal pay with the rest annulling all racial discrimination. When the tide of war turned with the battle of Antietam and Lincoln felt assured of a straight drive, he declared the freedom of all slaves within States which should be at war with the Union on New Year's Day, 1863. A proclamation of complete emancipation followed in three years.

It was an act of rare courage and rarer humanity launched on the sole responsibility of Lincoln. *No such magnanimous gesture of trust, freedom and prescience was ever made in human history by any statesman faced with the fire of war.* What a rebuke to the timid, cautious statesmen who defer as inopportune under conditions of war all idea of reform, liberation of subject nations, and in general the pursuit of any generous or constructive policy!

Re-elected for a second term on 4th March 1865, Lincoln delivered an inaugural address at once conveying his emphatic determination to carry on the war to a finish yet yearning for peace so characteristic of a cultured soul. "Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that the mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away." And then the grim resolution: "Yet, if God wills that it continue till the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn by the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, 'the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous'". The concluding sentence of the address is the

very quintessence of a high-minded chivalry born of a heart replete with humanity and a head replete with wisdom: "With malice towards none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

At the end of the war, says a biographer, on one point he was determined: *There should be no arrogant rejoicing over a fallen foe.* Lincoln's own words are: "No one need expect that I will take any part in hanging or killing these men, even the worst of them. Enough lives have been sacrificed. We must extinguish our resentments if we expect harmony and union." What infinite love! What profound wisdom! And what a lesson for peace-makers! In the hands of Lincoln, war with conventional weapons and appliances was, indeed, raised to the noble plane of a high-hearted moral campaign.

Having average humanity in view and reckoning with the world's stage of evolution, for a long time to come the rule of resisting violence with violence may continue to be the one desperate resource of troubled mankind. But it is the limitation of frail man and should be confessed for such. Lincoln himself admitted the moral superiority of a bloodless revolution when he declared: "This appeal to force is the misdeed of an imperfect world." He deprecates the resort to force and hopes a time will arrive when moral forces will prevail and

ancient disputes will be settled without an appeal to arms. If not by conscious volition and purposeful effort, the stricken people of the earth will learn through the anguish and purgatory of war the ultimate wisdom of Lincoln's words and accomplish his prophecy in the days to come.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S PROCLAMATION

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, in a remarkable proclamation declaring an unlimited national emergency, said in his fire-side talk on May 27:

Whereas the succession of events makes plain that the objectives of the Axis belligerents in such a (present European) war are not confined to those avowed at its commencement but include the overthrow throughout the world of the existing democratic order and world-wide domination of peoples and economies through the destruction of all resistance on land, sea and in the air and whereas indifference on the part of the United States to the increasing menace would be perilous, and common prudence requires that for the security of this nation and of this hemisphere we should pass from peace-time authorisations of military strength to such basis as will enable us to cope instantly and decisively with any attempt at a hostile encirclement of this hemisphere or the establishment of any base for aggression against it, as well as to repel the threat of predatory incursion by foreign agents into our territory or society, now, therefore, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, do proclaim that an unlimited national emergency confronts this country which requires that its military, naval, air and civilian defences be put on a basis of readiness to repel any and all acts or threats of aggression directed towards any part of the Western Hemisphere.

I call upon all loyal citizens engaged in production for defence to give precedence to the needs of the nation to the end that a system of Government that makes private enterprise possible may survive. I call upon all loyal workmen as well as employers to merge their lesser differences in the larger effort to ensure the survival of the only kind of Government which recognises the rights of labour or capital. I call upon the loyal State and local leaders and officials to co-operate with the civilian defence agencies in the United States to assure our integral security against foreign directed subversion and to put every community in order for the maximum productive effort with the minimum of waste and unnecessary friction.

THE SPIRIT OF TOLERANCE

BY PROF. A. R. WADIA, M.A.

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TO a generation nurtured on the principle of religious toleration a book like Dr. Jordan's* should be only of historical interest. But it is the misfortune of this generation that it has to experience the wild claims of totalitarianism which puts scant value on religion and thus comes to disown the claims of conscience against the might of the Hitlerian state. Dr. Jordan's learning is German in character, and the volume under review is the fourth and the last in a series of four dealing with the religious history of England since the Reformation right down till the triumphant return of the exiled Stuart, King Charles II, the merry king of England. In these intervening centuries much precious blood had been shed by both Catholics and Protestants, and all this in the interest of souls, which justifies our characterisation of this book as one on soul. Organised religion with its blind faith in its own dogmas ends in claiming a monopoly of truth and the consequent right to force this truth on all and sundry even at the point of the sword. The soul of the individual becomes a marketable commodity which can find an automatic entrance to the privileges of heaven or a forcible departure to the terrors of hell. There is a tragic logic behind all religious intolerance; if we know where truth lies, is it not our duty to make every one conform to it; if any one is so perverse that he will not see it, is it not our duty to force him to see it? But, alas! blind faith apart, who can claim to have the monopoly of truth? *What is Truth?* The question of jesting Pilate has remained unanswered through these 19 centuries. People have had to learn the sharp lesson through suffering and bloodshed that God speaks differently to different people and manifests Himself in different ways to different people. The final claim to truth is shrouded in "personal faith, which claims to be logical, but is unable to

prove its logical character at the bar of reason. When reasonable people begin to think of these conflicting personal faiths, and when they begin to think of God as a merciful Father, who is prepared to take the will of His children as the deed rather than to punish them like a savage for discarding the supposed truths which they cannot understand, religious tolerance must result. This is the gist of the story that Dr. Jordan's masterly volume unravels and shows how the exigencies of England's political life brought common sense—that most uncommon of virtues—to the religious bigots, who at last began to see that tolerance of one another's religious beliefs made for a united England and also a more religious England. In this development one cannot fail to notice a note of regret in Dr. Jordan that religious tolerance has won the battle only at "the cost of the rapid decay of the medieval ideal of an organic spiritual society", which had come to be identified with the ideal of Christian Society. He is emphatic in his view that by 1660, medieval Christian tolerance had died down and religious toleration had come to be an accepted feature of England's religious life. This cannot be taken at its face value, for if Catholics were tolerated they were tolerated as inferiors with definite limitations, and this was still more true of the Jews. But it may be admitted that the old acerbity, which was prepared to go to any lengths in matters religious, had lost its edge by 1660 and prepared the way for that absolute tolerance which has made England the home of liberty and an inspiration to the rest of the world.

We may note in passing that the intolerance which has marked the totalitarian states of to-day has shifted its centre of gravity from religion to mere politics. Religion of Christ or of God has ceased to be the pivot of life in these countries. Nationalism reigns supreme and it is in the name of "nationalism" we have seen attempts made to dethrone Christ and enthroned Wodin or Hitler or Lenin as the case may be.

* *The Development of Religious Toleration in England: Attainment of the Theory and Accommodation in Thought and Institution (1640-1660)* By W. K. Jordan, M.A., George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London, 21s.

This shifting of interest can be easily accounted for by a changed attitude to the question: What is soul? In the Reformation era, as in the medieval ages, nothing was more real than the soul. But the growth of science as of the scientific method has profoundly affected people's attitude to soul. This change is studied by Dr. William Ellis in his "Idea of the Soul."* It is definitely a philosophical book, but written by a scientist, and this perhaps constitutes the main charm of the book. Dr. Ellis is Lecturer in Experimental Zoology in Liverpool University. So naturally he can claim to have a mastery in scientific technique. But he is not a narrow specialist. He has read widely and deeply in philosophical classics from the Greeks downwards and has made a special study of Psychology. The Socratic view that the soul is something in terms of which alone we can understand life, has become a part and parcel of Christian tradition as well, but it is a far cry from the behaviourist view which has reduced soul to a matter of behaviour in terms of nerves and sensations. Dr. Ellis takes us through the psychological theories of the 19th century, epi-phenomenalism as well as through the epoch-making work of Driesch and Pavlov, but comes to the conclusion that "mechanistic description is doubly an abstraction from the concrete

wholeness of experience". With him mind remains the dominant character in psychology and he does not hesitate to develop the philosophical implications of this view. "Spirit enters hierarchally into nature." "Matter is 'momentary' or 'instantaneous' mind—mind which dies away, as it were in the instant that it springs to life; it is suppressed or frustrated mind." So nature itself comes to be looked upon as psychical being.

Dr. Ellis thus carries on the philosophical tradition which has had many eminent supporters that soul is only the counter-part of body or matter which it animates, but apart from which it has no being. The soul as a detachable entity which can be thrust into hell or elevated to some heaven finds no justification at Dr. Ellis's hands. To him "the conclusion seems inevitable that 'mind' or 'spirit' is in some sense present to the whole of the physico-chemical realm, not merely to that part of it which happens to form our bodies". What is the religious implication of such a view of soul? That is a question which the author has not entered into, but his treatment certainly would not countenance the old view of soul as a marketable commodity, which delighted the old theologians and which still constitutes the chief force in the armoury of fanatics in all religions, whether they claim to be educated or not. Thus from a different side this history of the idea of the soul supports the need for religious tolerance.

* The Idea of the Soul in Western Philosophy and Science. By William Ellis, Ph.D. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London, 12s. 6d.

Social Work: A Profession in the Making

BY DR. J. M. KUMARAPPA, M.A., S.T.B., Ph.D.

(Professor of Social Economy in the Tata Graduate School of Social Work, Bombay)

THE complexity of modern civilization and the advance in culture have produced out of the old time philanthropy a new type of public service which has come to be known as Social Work. It is based upon the contributions of sociology, psychology, economics, biology, and political science. Therefore, the approach to modern social work is scientific and the techniques employed are based upon the fundamental principles of the social

sciences tested by the experience of years in solving problems of individual and social maladaptation. Since the aim of social work is the better adjustment of social relations, the modern social worker seeks to find out the physical, social and mental causes of maladjustment, and to utilize to the full the resources of the community for the purpose. Consequently, social work has become a field of human activity in which professional standards

of action are essential and in which there is a rapidly growing demand for the services of persons who have professional qualifications.

Admitting the claim that social work is most important to human welfare, we may turn our attention to the question: Is social work a profession? In answer to this question, some may maintain that it has not yet arrived at full professional status. While it is true that in India social work as a profession is still in the making, it has in some of the progressive countries of the West attained a fairly definite professional standard. No profession ever appears on the scene ready-made; it is a matter of slow growth and development. Social work is no exception to this rule. Some twenty-five years ago, it was not recognized as a profession even in America; but during the last two decades leading American social workers have done much to raise its standards to meet professional requirements. Their success in achieving the goal is due to some measure to the demands of the modern age which lays greater emphasis upon the utilization of scientific knowledge and upon a more extensive educational and professional training.

In its struggle for professional status, social work has to contend with some special difficulties, one among them is its complex nature. The removal of the causes of misfortune, and even of setting up a new or wholesome environment, good as they are, are not in themselves a sufficient goal of the social worker if the highest objects of social work are to be attained. The range of human nature is infinite and no two individuals react the same way to external circumstances. Every maladjusted person must, therefore, be reached individually if he is to be reclaimed, or revitalized so that he can grow into a self-respecting and self-directing member of society. To this end he has to utilize every agency available for the purpose and provide the treatment prescribed. In this respect the social worker accepts a wider responsibility than other professionals, and it is this aspect which makes the definition and limitation of professional function a difficult problem.

Nevertheless, it is important to determine the status of social work. While it may be argued that it is unimportant whether or not social work is termed a profession, provided its activities are carried on efficiently, yet the conditions which must be met to establish it as a profession are indispensable for insuring that the activities are efficiently carried on. If social work is raised to a professional status, it will bring about a distinction between adequately and inadequately equipped practitioners and help to formulate more clearly standards determining the general and special educational qualifications for efficient performance of their duties. In fact, the efforts of American leaders to raise it to a professional status have already resulted, not only in making social work more scientific but also in establishing higher standards of efficiency.

So much so, that few in the United States now regard common sense and a desire to do good to one's fellows as sufficient equipment for social work, and the tendency now is to restrict the application of the term "social workers" only to those who are employed as professionals, that is, to those giving their whole time to the work and usually working at it for pay. Just as those dabbling in medical or legal practice are not recognized as physicians or lawyers, so also those engaged incidentally in social work are not recognized as social workers. Why should we not also move in the direction of making social work a profession in order to raise its standard and efficiency?

Social work carried on by ill-equipped men and women does more harm than good. Our philanthropy confirms dependence instead of relieving it; most of our reformatories turn offenders into criminals instead of rehabilitating them. Why recognize this sort of thing as social work? If it is anti-social, as it really is, why not designate it as such? Our social workers are untrained; our methods are unscientific; our social work is poorly organized and inefficiently managed. Is it then a matter for wonder if the most grievous waste of human effort in India is in the realm of charity?

This unfortunate situation is the result of the popular attitude of regarding alms-giving as doing good to oneself, irrespective of its effect upon the one who receives.

In spite of all these shortcomings the attitude, we must admit, of the intellectuals towards social work and social workers is changing, and those responsible for programmes dealing with health, poverty, family life and social relationships in its many intimate aspects are becoming increasingly aware of the resourcefulness needed for the tasks undertaken, and of the importance of placing these tasks in the hands of disinterested, intelligent and professionally trained persons. In the United States no other factor has been so important to the achievement of professional status and efficiency as that of adequate academic and vocational preparation. Within the last two or three decades, some 88 training schools of high standard have been established in America. In the year 1936, there were 1,864 full-time and 2,261 part-time students registered in the 88 schools. Out of these, 78 per cent. of the full-time and 88 per cent. of the part-time students were graduates. So also in Europe and Great Britain much progress has been made during the last twenty years in raising the standard of social work by providing special training and education for social workers.

Though we have not yet made social work a profession, we must be thankful for the new national awakening which has stimulated public bodies to ever-increasing activities in the field of social welfare. There are already hundreds and hundreds of social service agencies scattered all over the country. The provincial governments, municipalities and local bodies have begun to show new concern for public well-being, while private agencies are multiplying their programmes and expanding their services. But the main weakness in all these enterprises is that they are carried on by several independent organisations, more or less on a communal basis, without any formulation of common purposes and principles of organisation for the field as a whole. In consequence, there is an immense amount of futile and inefficient organisation.

If we are to make our social work scientific, it is necessary not only to establish functional standards, that is, boundaries of social work, but also professional standards. This first step needed in this direction is the establishment of professional schools of social work. Even in America, it is the growth of such schools that has profoundly affected social work and its status. In our country, there is, no doubt, a growing feeling that our old methods are inadequate to meet the ever-increasing complexity of social problems, and that adequate scientific training should be provided for workers to enhance their efficiency and skill.

Among the papers submitted to the 4th session of the All-India Social Service Conference held in Bombay in the year 1924, there were as many as five papers which dealt specifically with the problem of training social workers and of providing necessary facilities for such training. As a result, the Social Service League of Bombay started about the middle of 1925 an evening class for those interested in public welfare, and a brief course of lectures were delivered on social problems. Since then, this system of arranging popular lectures twice a week over a period of six weeks has been kept up, and it has now come to be known as "Social Workers' Training Class". A course of popular lectures lasting over so brief a period can be neither adequate nor scientific. Nevertheless, it is an attempt in the direction of providing some training to those interested in social work.

Another institution, known as the "Social Training Centre for Women," was started in Bombay in the year 1927 by the joint effort of the Y. M. C. A., the Missionary Settlement for University Women, the Church of Scotland Mission and the American Marathi Mission. The sole responsibility for running this Centre was taken over by the Missionary Settlement for University Women in 1932. The girls admitted were immature as the age limit was 18, and the educational requirement was low as the students were either matriculates or even below that standard. The course offered lasted ten months and was of an elementary nature.

Though this institution was closed down in 1937, it was one of the early attempts to meet a felt need.

It was in June 1936 that the first professional school of social work was started in Bombay. We cannot be adequately thankful to the Trustees of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust for taking the necessary steps to give a lead in providing the professional education of a high standard to social workers. The Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work is not only the first but the only one of its kind at present in India, and it offers a two year course of training in the general field of social work. In the first term such pre-professional and introductory courses as Social Origins, Sociology, Social Economics, Social Pathology, Child Psychology, Social Case Work, Medical Lectures for Social Workers, Hygiene and Sanitation are offered. During the rest of the three terms, courses in Social Psychology, Indian Social Problems, Crime and Delinquency, Organisation of Social Welfare Activities, Labour Problems and Industrial Welfare, Rural-Urban Social Problems, Psychiatry for Social Workers, Social Research and History of Social Work are covered.

Since the courses are professional in character, and the complexity of our social problems requires maturity of judgment, poise and dignity, which are usually gained only with age and experience, admission to the School is limited to graduates, men and women of recognised universities. Moreover, the undergraduate student has not the academic background and mental grasp to pursue successfully courses in social work. If social work in India is to be recognized as a profession, if it is to be made scientific, then graduate work is essential. Four years of college work are therefore none too many as a pre-requisite for either the academic training or the personal maturity that is desirable for professional training.

It may be of interest to the reader to know the different kinds of social work the graduates of the School are engaged in. Out of the first batch of graduates, one is engaged as the Labour Welfare Officer of the Government of Bombay. Another is the Chief Probation Officer of the

United Provinces. Two are working as Labour Welfare Officers in Bombay Mill. Three are Probation Officers of the Children's Aid Society. Two are engaged as municipal social workers of the Bombay Municipality. One is working as a Rural Development Officer among the depressed classes of Cochin, while another is carrying on a survey of the Harijan Seva Sangh. One is the Superintendent of a Children's Home, while another is a social worker of a Child Guidance Clinic.

Lack of trained leadership is largely responsible for the chaotic condition of our social work. To make social work in our country more exact, scientific and effective, we need an army of leaders trained for the profession, and to train them we need more Graduate Schools of Social Work, and more readiness on the part of social service agencies to give preference to trained workers. The untrained and part-time workers—and they form no negligible element—will continue for some years yet to come to hamper the development of social work as a profession. However, their usefulness can be greatly enhanced by making them perform their work in conjunction with and under the supervision of professionally trained workers.

As a profession, Social Work must interpret human maladjustment not in terms of benevolence or uplift but of natural processes, that is, "laws" of cause and effect. It must view it as resting on relative rather than on absolute standards of conduct. As a means of control, it must depend upon "insight" and manipulation of natural processes rather than on mere authority and enforcement. The field of social work is ever-changing in response to new concepts of possible usefulness. Where the sphere of activity is of such elasticity, the type of personnel is of prime importance in determining what is done and how it is done. It is, therefore, necessary not only to place, our social work on a more dignified plane but also to demand professional standards of action on the part of those who choose to enter this new profession in the making.

HUMOURS OF THE LAW COURTS

By "OMEGA"

—:O:—

A certain lawyer was defending a man who had been sued for returning a borrowed kettle in a damaged condition. "I intend to prove my client's innocence in three different ways," said he, "first I intend to show that he never borrowed the kettle. Secondly, I intend to prove that it was cracked when he borrowed it. And thirdly, I will prove that it was whole when he returned it." Surely, it is only a lawyer's skill which can prove all these things in the same breath. And that was probably the reason why a judge stopped a prisoner who was giving evidence on his own behalf and making a bad job of it. "You are lying so clumsily," said the judge, "that I shall advise you to engage a lawyer." Is it a tribute or a fling at the legal profession? But anybody who has frequented law courts is well aware that no member of the bench has ever resisted the temptation of casting a gibe at the legal counsel. Nor have lawyers been silent and suffering targets; for many of them have given 'an eye for an eye' and returned a blow with a counterblow.

Many battles of wit have been fought in the sacred precincts of law courts and some of the passages-at-arms between lawyers and lawyers, or between lawyers and judges have caused great amusement. There was a stiff-necked judge who made no disguise of his contempt even for eminent lawyers. Once he tried to insult a distinguished counsel by putting his legs crosswise on the table facing the lawyer who was to begin his arguments. "Which end of your lordship may I address," inquired the lawyer with perfect composure. "Any you please," returned the judge trying to be witty. "Yes, my Lord," rejoined the counsel, "there is as much law in the one as in the other." It is reported that the judge, thereafter was very courteous to this lawyer. The lesson was neatly given. It was an Irish barrister, John Filpot Curran, who was considered the "high priest of repartees". An Irish judge had trained a mastiff dog to sit beside him in the court, and one day while Curran

was arguing, the judge turned his eye from him in scornful indifference and began to fondle the dog. The Barrister stopped. "Go on," said the judge without turning his attention from the dog. "I beg your pardon," answered Curran, "I thought your lordships were in consultation." The same judge once said to Curran: "Oh Sir, if that is law, I may burn my law books." "Oh, no, my Lord, better read them," came the reply. There is another story of this Irish barrister's presence of mind and native genius for wit. Once when he was addressing a jury, the judge from time to time shook his head in denial of the counsel's arguments. Curran remarked: "Gentlemen, common observers might imagine that that implies a difference of opinion, but you will perceive if you remain here for many days that when his lordship shakes his head there's nothing in it."

F. E. Smith, the late Lord Birkenhead, was another supreme artist in this line. He was the master-craftsman, a doughty champion, the hero of a hundred battlefields. Have you heard this story of a verbal duel between him and Judge Willis in the Southwork County Court?

A boy who had been run over was suing a tramway company for damages. F. E. appeared for the company. It was alleged that the accident had led to blindness and the judge, a kindly soul, allowed sympathy to outrun discretion. "Poor boy, poor boy," he exclaimed. "Blind! Put him on a chair so that the jury can see him." Such sympathy was misplaced in a judge F. E. was moved to protest. "Perhaps your honour would like to have the boy passed round the jury box," he suggested.

"That is a most improper remark," exclaimed the judge.

"It was provoked by a most improper suggestion," came the startling reply. Judge Willis tried to think of a decisive retort and it came. "Mr. Smith, have you ever heard of a saying by Bacon—

the great Bacon—that youth and discretion are ill-wedded companions?”

“Yes, I have,” was the instant reply. “And have you heard of a saying of Bacon—the great Bacon—that a much talking judge is like an ill-tuned cymbal?”

“You are extremely offensive, young man,” exclaimed the judge. “As a matter of fact we both are,” said Smith. “I am trying to be, and you can’t help it.” That was the time for the judge to stop. F. E. was in a devastating mood. But Judge Willis continued: “What do you think I am on the bench for, Mr. Smith?” “It is not for me, your Honour, to attempt to fathom the inscrutable workings of Providence,” Lord Birkenhead replied.

A witty Scottish barrister was the brilliant but eccentric John Clerk, afterwards Lord Eldin. Once he pleaded in an appeal case in the House of Lords that his client had a prescriptive right to a mill stream because “the water had run that way for forty years”. The Chancellor, much amused at the Scottish pronunciation, asked him in a jesting tone: “Mr. Clerk, do you spell water with two t’s in Scotland?” The sensitive Mr. Clerk who had seen through the joke replied with lightning swiftness: “No, my Lord, we don’t spell water with two t’s in Scotland, but we spell manners with two n’s”.

In this account of great wits and humorists of the legal profession, it will be unpardonable to omit mention of Sir Edward Carson who stood in a class by himself. He had no mercy for a troublesome witness. Questioning an inveterate drunkard, he asked: “Do you drink?” “That’s my business,” came the curt reply. Instantly turning to the man, Sir Edward asked: “Have you any other business?” Another witness who thought no end of himself was once roughly handled by Mr. Justice Darling. When challenged, the witness said in a rather pompous tone: “I have been wedded to truth from my youth upwards.” “Quite so,” flashed out Lord Darling, “but the question is when did you obtain a divorce?”

And this reminds me of an encounter which the late Pandit Motilal Nehru once had with a witness who had a swollen

head. Nettled by an inconvenient question in the course of the cross-examination, he said to the legal counsel: “You are mistaken.” And in an angry tone continued: “Sir, do you think I’m a fool.” The astute Pandit retorted: “Why, no,” and then after a pause added, “but, of course, I may be mistaken.” It was a hard stroke and the effect of it was visible. Indian law courts have witnessed occasional combats of wit in which lawyers have scored points over supercilious judges or refractory witnesses. The late Sir Rash Behari Ghosh shone in Calcutta High Court with a brightness all his own and eclipsed the men on the bench who sat mute as statues. A pensive English judge once got into a fighting mood and said to Sir Rash Behari: “Do you know whom you are addressing?” “Yes, my lord, I am addressing a *puny* judge of the High Court. The accent on the word *puny* did the trick and we are told on good authority that the judge was convinced of the virtues of silence while dealing with this brilliant legal luminary. The story goes of a young English barrister who knew more law than Hindustani. Cross-examining for defence regarding a question of measurements, he asked the plaintiff’s witnesses: “How came you to know these measurements?” “By *Andaj*,” said one. “By *Andaj*,” said the second. And others repeated the same. The barrister addressing the Court said: “My lord, I have very little to say. The plaintiff cannot hope to succeed because he has omitted to call the most important witness in the case, that man *Andaj*. You will have observed, my lord, that every witness who has given evidence on this question derived his knowledge from *Andaj* and *Andaj* has not been called.” Imagine the annoyance of the barrister who found the court convulsed with laughter at his intelligent suggestion.

Unconscious humour has often a large share in producing laughter in court. Winding up his speech, the counsel for defence in a case observed: “The principal fault of the prisoner has been an unfortunate characteristic of putting faith in thieves or scoundrels of the basest descrip-

tion. I have done. Gentlemen of the jury, the unhappy man in the dock places implicit faith in you." And here is another of the same type. A prosy judge was trying a case of alleged nuisance and in his charge to the jury explained at great length the legal definition of a nuisance. After fully expanding the statute and the common law, he asked the jury if they understood what a nuisance meant. "Oh, yes," the foreman of the jury promptly replied: "We are all agreed that we never realised what a nuisance was until we heard your lordship's summing-up." But this is small wonder, for the gentlemen of the jury are up to anything. In a case of petty larceny the jury were asked: "Do you find the prisoner guilty or not guilty?" The foreman promptly said: "Not guilty, with a recommendation that he should be told not to do it again."

Witnesses have no small place in producing that humour which is the one saving grace of many courts that are noted for their deady dull proceedings. The magistrate glowered at the man in the witness-box. "You say this man robbed you. Can you pick out any of your property from the heap of articles found on the prisoner?" "Yes, that's my handkerchief with 'B' in the corner," said the witness. "But that is no proof, my man," snapped the magistrate. "I have a handkerchief with 'B' in the corner." "Well, I lost two handkerchiefs," said the witness in a most innocent voice. Mr. (afterwards Lord) Jeffry was addressing a jury and he found it necessary to make free with the character of a military officer who was present during his speech. On hearing himself several times spoken of as "the soldier", the son of Mars, boiling over with indignation, interrupted the pleader. "Don't call me a soldier, sir, I am an officer." Jeffry immediately went on, "Well, gentlemen, this officer who is no soldier was the sole cause of mischief." It is hard to beat a witty lawyer. Carlyle used an apt epithet when he described a barrister as a "loaded blunder-buss". If you bought him he blew your opponent's brains out, if your opponent bought him, he blew yours out. But let us leave Lord Jeffry and attend another scene.

Here is a judge asking in a challenging voice: "Prisoner, explain how it is that you stole these worthless articles and left a valuable gold watch and chain close at hand untouched." The prisoner replied, humbly: "Don't find fault with me for that, my lord, my wife has been hard enough on me for it already." The atmosphere of the court was no more sombre, it became gay.

But what do you think of the deep seriousness and gravity of a judge who allowed the sacred atmosphere of his court never to be defiled by frivolous talk or scenes of excitement. It so happened that two lawyers fell out in his presence. And, horror of horrors, one said to the other: "You are the biggest fool I have ever seen." Promptly exclaimed the judge, rising to the occasion, "Order, order, don't you see I am present here." If one is not impressed by this magistrate's dignity, it is not his fault. There is no end to telling stories of legal humour. But space in a journal is limited and so I must call a halt.

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SCIENCE AND ART

By MR. S. N. CHOPRA

EVERY TIME a genius who combines the scientist and the artist in him appears, a controversy on whether science and art are compatible with each other flares up. Yet the question is never resolved. The great discussion which ensues each time is buried under its own weight and the world left to repeat the argument as another such super-man is born. The world laments over the tardy progress of art in modern times. In the sphere of art to-day, geniuses do not recur as frequently as they used to. Some prophesy that the springs of creative art have gone dry under the burning sun of science. Lesser contact with nature and greater reliance on man's handicraft have fled the sense of wonder which is the parent of all creative art. Others ascribe this barrenness to some periodic movements that control outbursts of creative activity. The present period, according to this school, is a fallow period for art. Be that as it may. Our concern here is to show that art and science are not inconsistent with each other; that under balanced cultural conditions, the complimentary nature of science and art can lead to the enrichment of both.

It is questionable if wonder and awe, which are the founts of artist's inspiration dissolve as science progresses. A scientific answer to why the sky is blue, cannot dilute the artist's ecstasy on beholding a vast sea of the palest blue overhanging his head on a spring morning. The artist does not derive his inspiration from the "how" but from the "is". To him the idea is more important than the explanation. I wonder if any artist doubts the legendary nature of Greek mythology. And yet around that rich store of myth and speculation have grown sublimest creations of art. Neither is a scientific attitude inconsistent in an artist. Despite Ruskin's affirmation, there is no evidence to show that imaginative literature suffers from scientific knowledge on the part of the poet. Goethe, the greatest of the German poets, carried a head that could not only compose poetry but also grasp the minutest problems of astronomy and physics. Michael Angelo was an engineer, poet and a visual artist all combined in one. And

of Leonardo da Vinci it is said that he could successfully conduct a scientific research in the morning and sit down to paint his master-piece in the afternoon. His analytic faculty did not suffer because of his supreme synthetic genius.

A psychologist has attempted to reconcile science and art on a fresh basis altogether. To him there exists no contradiction between the two, because both spring from a common human faculty,—the intuitive faculty. He maintains that it is more by intuition than by progressive reasoning that great scientific truths are discovered. The momentous discoveries of Archimedes, Lavoisier, Newton and Darwin originated as lightning does on a dark sky, flashing through the genius mind and bringing sudden knowledge when deductive reasoning had come to a blind end. On this reasoning, the poet is essentially a great chemist and a great chemist a poet. Both have the same sixth sense which is denied to the common individual. Ridiculous as it seems, Nobel and Goethe can now sit as twin-brothers in history's lap without fear of being pointed out as queer companions.

This explanation, while it solves some problems, creates others of as great importance. As against the exceptional artist who has also some scientific aptitude, there are scores of eminent scientists to whom music is merely a succession of notes with definite pitch intervals and a picture a collection of smudgy dyes which the chemist has dug out of coal-tar. Should a ballot be arranged, it would not be surprising if a good number of the Fellows of the Royal Society pronounce a pushpin to be as good as poetry. Their intuitive faculty may altogether fail to register excellence of form, colour or sound.

How can we explain this contradiction? In view of what we have said in the preceding paragraph, how can we assert that science is not prejudicial to art? The explanation is somewhat on the following lines: There is a difference between the method of the scientist and the artist which always introduces a distinction between the respective spheres.

of the two. And although it may be true that great scientific discoveries, like great creations of art, are conceived intuitively, their later life-history is differently laid. To superficial observers there now begins to appear a contradiction between the respective objectives of art and science. Yet this apparent conflict between science and art is more in the method than in the idea. Starting from a common source of inspiration, the scientist proceeds along the path of analysis while the artist adopts a totally synthetic attitude. Science, thence onwards, is for precision and accuracy; art, on the other hand, now puts its faith in an imaginative conception of universal truths. What confuses the question of art and science is the common habit of mixing up categories. This confusion can be avoided and the apparent conflict between science and art resolved by constantly reminding ourselves of the distinctive spheres of science and art.

This prompts the question: What are the respective functions of science and art? Superficially considered it would seem that whereas science resolves the mysteries of nature, art re-creates them. Such a view led an eminent scientist into the irresponsible statement that art is opposed to science; that it attempts to replant superstitions swept away by science. The scientist's resolve is to tear

away the mysterious veil that covers the maidenly face of nature and wring from her all her secrets. The poet's resolve is just the opposite. To him naked knowledge would dilute the sense of wonder wherefrom all artistic impulse proceeds. The well-being of art lies in the perpetuation of that sense of wonder.

This, however, does not mean that science and art are pulling in opposite directions, or that the aims of the two are in conflict. Both science and art are forms of discovery. Scientific discoveries relate to knowledge on the material plan; the discoveries of art are revelations on the spiritual plan. One treats of the relation of the grosser mind to the universe; the other exhibits the connection between the world and man's subtler mind. Whether science or art is more important is an irrelevant question. The necessity of science for promoting material culture is apparent. So also is the need of art for promoting spiritual culture. Man's progress has to be dual if it has to be progress at all. The real problem is not whether we can be more happy by abandoning science or neglecting art. The real problem is to attain that cultural balance in which science and art become two complementary instruments to human progress, each carrying us further towards its goal of perfection, but neither thwarting or competing with the other.

STRATEGIC DARDANELLES

BY MR. A. T. SRESHTA

"**R**UMANIA and Russia were beaten not by the German and Austrian armies, but by the Dardanelles," recently wrote Lloyd George, speaking of the last World War. So important are these Straits in a major European conflict.

Over the Dardanelles, history echoes with endless high-voiced discussions when tempers grew short and war-scared gripped nations. The Straits came to the forefront in the Napoleonic wars, the Crimean struggle, and the Russo-Turkish war of 1876. In 1912, they were fearfully bombarded by Italian battleships and early in the Great War, the belligerents

made a wild scramble for their possession. And all over a strip of blue water that Byron loved to swim across for pastime.

Today, the centre of political gravity is again shifting towards this channel on which Stalin and Hitler have cast covetous eyes.

STRATEGIC VALUE

The Hellespont of ancient days, the Dardanelles are the narrow straits connecting the Mediterranean with the Sea of Marmora and thence through the Bosphorus with the Black Sea. They average about 3 or 4 miles in breadth.

On the European bank is the peninsula of Gallipoli and, on the Asiatic, the province of Anatolia. Along the shores are a number of ancient castles; the chief of which are Sultanien-Kalensi (Old Castle of Anatolia) and Kilid-Bahr (Old Castle of Rumelia).

Owing to the narrow width of the channel, the Dardanelles are easily defended from naval attack. Under the now defunct Ottoman Empire, the banks were lined with batteries, fortified particularly at the point known as the Narrows, 10 miles from the Aegean end of the Straits. The channel itself was strewn with submerged mines.

For the Balkan kingdoms bordering the Black Sea and for Southern Russia, the Straits form the only sea-outlet. In war-time the Dardanelles can make or mar these countries and this is what exactly occurred in the Great War.

THE DARDANELLES CAMPAIGN

Late in 1914, Turkey, whose relations with Britain had become strained owing to the presence of the German warships *Breslau* and *Goeben* in the Bosphorus, declared war against the Allies. To Russia, it came as a bomb-shell. As an ally of Great Britain, its trade had been greatly hampered by German submarines in the Baltic. And now, with suddenness, Turkey slammed the door on her southern sea-coast. Rumania also was on the verge of a collapse, Allied help for these countries became imperative. The Dardanelles must be captured at all costs.

The British Admiral, Sir Sackville Garden, suggested a methodical advance through the Straits by a fleet of semi-obsolete warships and mine-sweepers. The plan was carried out in February 1915, but finally abandoned as impracticable after the loss of 8 battleships.

A regular military campaign was then decided upon. Troops were landed on the north-western side of the peninsula of Gallipoli under Sir Ian Hamilton. The campaign lasted 8 long months during which the British tried every means in their power to surprise the Turks. But the mountainous nature of the country presented a serious obstacle to the Allies. The Turks, on the contrary, were acquainted

with every inch of the ground and, besides, were led by a brilliant young officer, Mustafa Kemal (later the great Dictator) whose terrific drive and energy goaded his tired and ill-equipped troops to fight with heroic courage. Down Chonuk Boir, the main point of attack, thrice did Mustafa hold down the British advance.

The campaign took a heavy toll of Allied troops amounting to 180,000 killed, wounded, and missing. The British could ill-spare their men who were urgently required on more important fronts. In December 1915, the Allies withdrew from Gallipoli. This closed a memorable chapter in the Middle East, the consequences of which were not easily foreseen at that period. According to a British Prime Minister, the war itself was thereby prolonged by nearly two years, involving millions of casualties and thousands of pounds expenditure.

INTERNATIONAL CONTROL

The close of the Great War saw serious efforts by the victorious nations to settle once for all the future of the Dardanelles which, while in the hands of the Ottoman rulers, had caused so much of distress in the war.

Before the Armistice, by a secret agreement among the Allies, Russia was promised the land surrounding the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus. But the rise of the Bolsheviks in 1917, with their strong antipathies for the Allies, totally altered the situation. The next proposal was to give the Straits to the Greeks, but was dropped under strong Italian opposition.

It looked now as if no settlement could be reached over so important a problem. But early in 1919, British Foreign Office experts, after much deliberation, suggested a neutralised zone to be formed around the Straits, inclusive of Constantinople, and controlled by a responsible power under a mandate.

At the Peace Conference, the Allies unanimously offered the mandate to America which, with its freedom from continental prejudices, was considered the best nation to administer this small State with its diverse populations. President Wilson,

at first reluctant to entangle his country in European obligations, accepted when pressed on considerations of world peace. He stated, however, that everything would depend on his capacity to influence the Senate to ratify the Peace Treatise.

This American scheme, which included also a mandate for an independent Armenia, was unquestionably a plan *par excellence* and would undoubtedly have promoted goodwill among the embittered nations of Europe. But Wilson's serious illness on his return to U. S. A., and the determined opposition of the Republicans, brushed away all hope of America undertaking the mandates.

It was then decided to administer the Dardanelles by an Inter-Allied Commission consisting of France, Italy, and Britain. The details of the control were worked out and later embodied in the Treaty of Sevres (1922).

But a serious development threatened to upset their plans. As the peace-makers dismembered the Ottoman Empire, rode it with supervising commissions, and gave birth to new States, a sinister figure loomed in far-off Anatolia, Mustafa Kemal, the hero of Gallipoli, now the nominal Governor of Erzerum, was organizing a revolt against the Sultan.

For a time, the statesmen at the peace table felt disturbed. Who is this Mustafa? It was as if a troublesome bee were constantly droning round their ears. "Oh!" some shrugged their shoulders impatiently "Mustafa and his band will soon pass away," and continued with renewed vigour their all-important task of ordering the destinies of nations.

But Mustafa also silently continued his work. The previous year, he had won an indecisive victory at Sakaria (1921), over the Greeks, but Turkey's fate still hung in the balance.

All at once, the dreary Anatolian plateau resounded to the boom of cannon and spatter of rifle-fire. In a moment of over-confidence, the Greek Army in Smyrna invaded Anatolia. For Mustafa, it was the signal for battle. With the fury of the Ancient Turk, he whipped his ragged troops into action, smote the enemy hip and thigh, and drove them

across the Aegean Sea back to their native land. Thus, at one stroke, was reduced to bits the carefully drawn-up Treaty of Sevres. At the Conference of Lausanne, General Ismet INUENU (the present President of Turkey) won for Turkey complete independence as well as control of the Dardanelles.

KEMAL RE-FORTIFIES THE STRAITS

The fortifications had been totally destroyed in the Great War. And in the Peace negotiations, Turkey had agreed not to re-erect them without the express sanction of the League of Nations. But in 1936, Kemal Ataturk, foreseeing a second international conflict, issued orders on his own authority for re-fortification. Subsequently, however, the Great Powers ratified his action. How far-sighted Kemal was in his decision is evidenced by recent developments in the present War. Had he not fortified the Straits, or had he awaited permission from the League which would not have been quickly given, the Dardanelles by now would, under Hitler's new-found weapon of lightning swiftness, have passed overnight into Russia's hands.

Today, the Dardanelles hold the key to the defeat of Nazism. In the last two years, Turkey has stood firm to Britain and weathered many storms. There is little hope, therefore, of Germany spreading eastward her reign of terror which, in the west, has brought the finest European States crumbling to the ground.

Blessed Am I That I Am Born To This Land

By DR. RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Blessed am I that I am born to this land
and that I had the luck to love her.
What care I if queenly treasure is not in her store
but enough is for me the living wealth of her love.
The best gift of fragrance to my heart
comes from her own flowers
and I know not where else shines the moon
that can flood my being with such loveliness.
The first light revealed to my eyes
was from her own sky
and let the same light kiss them
before they are closed for ever.

PROFESSOR K. S. KRISHNAN

BY DR. C. MAHADEVAN, M.A., D.Sc., F.A.Sc.

PROFESSOR K. S. KRISHNAN, who was recently made an F. R. S., is the sixth Indian to be honoured with the election to the Fellowship of Royal Society—the blue ribbon in science in the British Empire. When this distinction



PROF. K. S. KRISHNAN, D.Sc., F.R.S.

comes to an Indian, it is recognition of the highest scientific talent and work. The brilliant genius, the late Ramanujam was the first Indian to be selected to the Royal Society, the others being Professor Sir C. V. Raman, the Nobel Laureate of Asia in Science, the late Sir J. C. Bose, Professor Megnath Saha, and Professor Birbal Sahani, one of the foremost palaeobotanists and the founder and inspiration of the Indian School of Palaeobotany. Professor Krishnan is the first researcher who had worked under a great Indian savant to achieve this distinction.

Krishnan was born in Watrap of Madura District of a family held aristocratic according to Indian notion, i.e., aristocracy of character and learning, on 4th December 1898. His father was a great scholar and a very devout Vaishnava who used to frequently hear the call of Shree Venkateswara of Tirupathi and repair there for prayer and meditation. In

reminiscent mood, Krishnan would recall incidents in his father's life illustrative of his great bhakti and spiritual eminence.

After high-schooling at Srivilliputtur and passing the Intermediate from the American College, Madura, Krishnan came to Madras and joined the Christian College, from where he graduated in 1921. He accepted the place of Demonstrator of Chemistry in the same Institution but was delivering lectures in addition, in mathematical physics, out of College hours. These lectures used to have a very crowded attendance, sometimes students from other Colleges hastening to have the benefit of his lucid teaching. The writer had the privilege of being a pupil of both the Practical Chemistry and Mathematical Physics classes during this period.

Krishnan's ambition did not lie in the path of the humdrum life of a college lecturer and he went to Calcutta where Professor Raman was giving a new orientation to the progress of science in India with his small but devoted band of scholars. Krishnan joined the University College of Science and Technology as a post-graduate student in 1928, but worked most of the time in the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science where Professor Raman was directing advanced work in Science. Krishnan had no glamour for degrees and his heart was set on solid work. With cool deliberation and to the surprise of his friends, he decided not to sit for the M. Sc. examination but went on quietly with his deep study and concentrated work in the research laboratories. He was in no haste to "publish papers", a craze most young men entertain the moment they enter a Research Institution. Professor Krishnan's first published paper was full two years after he began work as a Research Scholar and it was published in the Philosophical Magazine, one of the best known high class scientific journals of the world. This paper, on light scattering, is still considered a classic in that subject. By this time he mastered modern physics involving intricate knowledge of higher mathematics. From then on, began his close collaboration

with Professor Raman resulting in the publication of several joint papers of prime importance in physics in the proceedings of the Royal Society. To humble folk, like the writer, the sight of Raman and Krishnan sitting side by side, on the bench in the library, writing away papers of fundamental importance with no more discussion or talk than mere nasal sounds of agreement or difference used to be a marvel, and a practical demonstration of mutual thought reading faculties. When Professor Raman made his epoch-making discovery of the "Raman Effect" which won him the Nobel Prize, Krishnan became his close collaborator in the extensive experimental work initiated at that time. With him was also associated Dr. S. Venkateswaran, Deputy Registrar of Trade Mark, Government of India, who was then Chemical Assistant in the Government of India Test House. Dr. Venkateswaran found time outside his exacting official work to put in more research of a very high order as a part-time worker than did most whole-time scholars in the laboratory.

In 1929, Professor Krishnan was appointed University Reader of Physics at Dacca. The selection of Professor Krishnan for this post marks a new era in the history of filling scientific posts. Several "influential" aspirants belonging to Bengal, some of them with doctorates in science from Foreign Universities, applied for the post with Mr. Krishnan. He had no big abbreviated letters tailing his name and what he did possess was his contribution to the advancement of Physics in the form of research papers published in leading scientific journals of the world. Like Faraday taking his notes of Sir Humphrey Davy's lectures as a testimonial for a post under the great chemist, Mr. Krishnan had with him the notes he had taken of the lectures in theoretical physics delivered at the Calcutta University by the great German theoretical physicist Professor Sommerfeld. These notes were published by the Calcutta University, and Professor Sommerfeld in his introductory note humorously remarked in admiration that Professor Krishnan had thoroughly prepared these lectures of Professor Sommerfeld that the honour of authorship was more probably Professor Krishnan's

by right than his own. Krishnan was chosen by a group of distinguished scientists and educationalists. This was the recognition of the principle that real merit and work but not mere academic degrees should govern the appointment of persons for responsible scientific positions. After going to Dacca, he initiated researches in Magneto-Optics and allied problems and drew together a band of ardent workers. Professor S. N. Bose, of "Bose-Einstein Equation Relativity" fame, the Head of the Physics Department, a lovable and a genial man and a great statistician, gave Krishnan his warm friendship and every facility for research.

Persuaded by Professor Raman not to entirely ignore academic hall-mark, Krishnan submitted over a dozen papers for M. Sc. thesis of the Madras University, any two of which, in Professor Raman's words, were good enough for a doctorate. Later, he was prevailed upon to submit another lot of papers for D. Sc. and it is said that Professor Sir William Bragg praised the thesis in the highest terms referring to Krishnan as one of the most promising of Indian Physicists.

In 1933, when Professor Raman was appointed as the Director of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, he induced Professor Krishnan to accept the newly created research chair of Physics at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science. This Institute was founded by the enthusiasm and foresight of one of the greatest Indians of the last century, Dr. Mohendralal Sircar, for affording research facilities for any one interested in science. Several munificent donations from all parts of India including a princely contribution from Maharaja Ananda Gajapathi of Vizianagaram, that great patron of every good cause in the 19th century, laid the foundation of this laboratory, but it was not given for Mohendralal Sircar to see dreams realised in his lifetime. He died about the year 1904, but the first earnest research in this Institute was initiated by Professor Sir C. V. Raman during his spare hours when he was an Assistant Accountant-General at Calcutta about the year 1907. Professor Raman with his unparalleled devotion to science, spent practically all his life outside his

office hours in this Institute and soon made it the foremost research centre in India. He thus completed the work of Mohendralal Sircar and it was not without a pang that he could leave an Institution which was practically his life-work and from which he sent out to all parts of India scores of researchers trained under him in physics, applied mathematics, chemistry and geology. With remarkable foresight the great Guru invited Professor Krishnan, his foremost Sishya, to take charge of the Institute in the newly created Mohendralal Sircar Research Professorship. It speaks to Krishnan's whole-hearted devotion to his research and his great tact, that surmounting every obstacle, he carried on his great work, winning laurels from all over the world. He was soon invited by Foreign Scientific Institutions to lecture on his researches. He visited several European countries and Great Britain in 1936 and 1937 as an honoured scientist from India and established personal contact with scientists who were familiar enough with his contributions. Soon after the Jubilee Sessions of the Indian Science Congress which was attended by some of the foremost scientists of the world, when I was talking to Professor Tutton, the greatest living authority on crystallography, the Professor exclaimed with a gleam in his eyes and almost a feeling of pride that Professor Krishnan agreed with the results of his researches in crystallography. This touching incident was a revelation as to the importance of Professor Krishnan's contributions to the advancement of crystallographic knowledge. Professor Krishnan's election to the Royal Society comes none too soon.

Great as is Krishnan as a scientist, he is greater as a man; he is simple as a child, well read, highly cultured and catholic in his outlook. He is modest and his manners are very unassuming, but within a very few minutes he would be the central figure in any society. He is incapable of making enemies and his transparent sincerity and honesty like those of his great master, Professor Raman, win him respect and admiration. He has great tact and political foresight and can steer clear in stormy waters. He

is generous to a fault, and is most loyal and affectionate as a friend. Though devoted to science, he loves sport and is a keen tennis player. One of the few recreations Krishnan allowed himself as a scholar was to witness the Calcutta League Matches and it was a sight to see this serious researcher completely absorbed in the game, cheering lustily every fine stroke and display and going into temper boisterously over the referee's lapses. The really great people are truly simple.

Generations of scholars who passed through the Indian Association for cultivation of science would acknowledge with gratitude the immense help they derived from Professor Krishnan during their stay in the laboratory. When any scholar new to the laboratory asked Krishnan where a particular apparatus was, he would unostentatiously go with the scholar and take it himself and give him even if he was amidst engrossing work. When a researcher had any difficulty in his problem and approached him, Krishnan would give up his own important work and spend as much time as was required to make the scholar clear his doubts. He possesses intellectual generosity of the highest degree that is placed unreservedly at the service of those who seek his help. It was this generous spirit which permeated the Science Association that made it possible for less gifted scholars to still spend useful years there.

Professor Krishnan, who was married when he was twelve to a spouse not much younger, is happy in his domestic life; it is a pleasure to see him surrounded by a devoted wife and loving children whom all he treats as pals. He is just past forty and has a long life of scientific activity before him.

Though he has no time for politics, he is a staunch nationalist and a believer in the great destiny of our country. He is a happy blend of the "Pundit Type" characterised by thoroughness and deep scholarship, as well as a creative faculty with critical vision. He is one of those great Indians who give our Beloved Mother country a place in the world.

COLOURED HEARING

BY MR. R. M. LOOMBA

(Lecturer in Philosophy, Ramja's College, Delhi University)

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COLOURED hearing is one of the most peculiar among the uncommon phenomena in the wonderland of the mind. It is the most frequent form of what may, in psychological terminology, be called *psycho-chromæsthesia*, or a complication of a state of the mind by colour-experience. In it, when there is a sound, there is not only a hearing-experience but also a clear colour-experience that is spontaneously produced without the agency of a real coloured object. Thus in some individuals' mind music gives rise to colour-experience. When a scale of musical notes is played, at each note a colour flashes into their minds. Not only music, but voices of friends and acquaintances may appear coloured to these peculiarly gifted persons. The colours seen in this manner along with sounds without the agency of any real colour-objects are known as 'colour photisms'.

Coloured hearing appears among children as well as among adults. It is most prevalent among the former. But since its signs are among children very vague, more ephemeral and less striking, it can be more easily recognised among adults.

Cases in which all hearing is coloured are rare. But cases are oftener come across of individuals who hear only musical notes as coloured, or only the proper names, or again, only names of the days of the week, or, may be, perhaps, only the names of the seasons. In one case, Monday was a name heard as pale pearly grey, Tuesday as Prussian blue, Wednesday as light yellow, Thursday as brownish orange, Friday as bright bottle green, Saturday as pillar-box red, and Sunday as pale but brilliant gold.

There does not seem to be any uniformity or consistency about the colour seen with the hearing of sound. Even where the same sound is heard as coloured by several persons, the colour is not necessarily the same for each individual. Indeed, the same person may hear the same sound in different colours at different times. For

instance, the same note, middle A, corresponding roughly to *dha* on the Indian scale of music, has been known to have been experienced by the same person at different times as yellow, grey, blue, orange, purple, red and green. Similarly the same note, *fa*, corresponding to *ma* on the Indian scale, has been known to have been called by the same person pink, black, red, rose, purple, blue and green on different occasions.

Only in a very general sense some degree of uniformity has been observed to prevail. The range of colours which any person may experience during his coloured hearing seems to be limited. And this limited range appears to remain constant so far as that person is concerned, and not to expand or to contract with the passing of time. Thus the same colours are always used by the same individual no matter what time elapses. In one case, two years elapsed and yet the second record communicated at the end of this period reported the same colours as the original report. It has also been observed that the low tones are experienced as dark-coloured and the high tones as bright-coloured. Likewise the louder a sound the darker it is 'seen' to be in colour. Most blue music is loud, but not so loud as 'black' music. If two notes are sounded together, two colours are experienced. Chords of three or more notes appear as "jumbled mixture" of colours. More complex groups of notes are 'seen' as more unitary, and dark. One three year old child of the psycho-chromæsthetic class of human beings is reported to have described soft group music as yellow.

All these colour-experiences during audition seem to be characterized by great clearness. There have been some cases in which the clearness has taken time to appear in consciousness. That is, for instance, the colour of the sound would appear blurred and indistinct when the note was first sounded, but would attain great clearness in about five

seconds' time. After the sound ceases, the colour has been observed to stay in all its clearness as long as the note could be recalled by him. As would naturally be expected, the clearness of the colour-experiences makes them strike the psycho-chromaesthetic as very real and sometimes even they themselves are surprised at it.

The colour-experience is not only 'real'. It is also characterised by certain other mysterious and interesting features. Usually the person gifted with the phenomenon claims that the colour 'seen' by him does not match with any on the colour chart, although, he says, its shade might resemble perhaps a mixture of some of them. Again, he localises the colour 'seen' in hearing somewhere at a point within the head. The high tones are placed in the forehead and low tones in the region of the ears. The shape of all colours is seen as circular. The size of the colour seen depends upon the pitch of the tone. Thus, tones of the middle range of the piano may be seen between 1 and 8 inches in diameter. In one case, the high tone of a Galton whistle was reported as "small as a pea". At the same time, however, there have been cases of psycho-chromaesthetics who have reported the colours seen by them to have no form whatsoever and to colour the entire field of objects visible to them.

Some psychologists believe it to have been established that coloured hearing is a hereditary feature. But others are of the opinion that it has its origin during childhood. Considering its wide prevalence in childhood and also the latter view mentioned above, it may be that perhaps the several separate senses of man: hearing, seeing, tasting, and the others, are all products of specialisation and differentiation out of a more primitive 'general sense' in the child in which they may still be. And it may be that in some cases they remain still inseparably related to each other inspite of the advance in age and thus give rise to the phenomenon of coloured hearing.

Or, again, another common observation may throw some light upon the nature of this peculiar phenomenon. There is a

general tendency to overlay all ideas and impressions with vivid visualisations in the form of images of visible qualities. This observation suggests that, after all, coloured hearing may be but an unusual survival in an extreme degree of early imageries of childish fancy. Some children undoubtedly indulge strongly in this fanciful brainwork; and they may thus alter the world of sense in ways which it is usually hard for the older stiff-joined minds to follow.

It may even be that sounds develop in these cases a correspondence with the colours of objects connected with them or referred to by them. The feelings of pleasantness and unpleasantness may constitute another factor responsible for coloured hearing. In that case the pleasantness or unpleasantness of the source of the sound would determine the colour 'seen' in hearing it. There seems to be some justification indeed in the view that the mind spontaneously applies a very pleasing colour to an agreeable sound and an unpleasant colour to a disagreeable one.

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STATE THE WAR AIMS

BY ACHARYA J. B. KRIPĀLANI

(General Secretary of the Indian National Congress)

ENGLAND entered the present conflict for the defence of Poland and the resuscitation of Czechoslovakia and Austria. There was some vague talk about democracy and a new order in Europe. India was immediately dragged in without its consent. Soon after the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress reviewed the situation. It found that no clear or authoritative statement about British war and peace aims had been forthcoming from any quarter. The British Cabinet and the Parliament were silent. The politicians whenever they touched this topic were mystically vague. The Working Committee of the Congress, therefore, in their historic statement of September 1939, demanded of the British Government, among other things, a clear enunciation of its war and peace aims before India could willingly and freely participate in the conflict, not as a subordinate municipal Government but as an independent nation. The response to this demand of the Congress is well-known. It was *nil*.

However the demand for the clarification of war aims was not confined to the Indian National Congress. Nearer home radical groups made the same demand. It had to be satisfied in some way. The politicians soon discovered an ingenious way to get over the difficulty. Thereafter the slogan "win the war" was repeated from the press, platform and the radio on every conceivable occasion till through sheer repetition people began really to believe that it was a sufficient and exhaustive, though brief, statement of war aims. "Win the war" is no war aim. It is only a condition precedent to the establishment of some sort of new order. The last war also established some kind of an order considered to be just and equitable by the victors. Victory in the war was merely a condition precedent to the establishment of this order. To install a necessary condition as an aim is, to say the least, muddled thinking. Hitler's New Order, however preposterous and unjust, would as a war

aim appeal to the human mind better than the mere cry "Win the war". . . .

Therefore those who here or in England insist upon the clarification of British war and peace aims are not, as a matter of fact, hampering war effort and drawing popular attention from it. Rather they are asking the authorities to furnish themselves with the most powerful psychological weapon in their armoury to beat Hitler. . . .

In the last war, America insisted upon the formulation and acceptance of war aims, because it had not yet developed the present fear complex; nor was it obsessed by the idea of its imperial influence in the Pacific being in danger. Under changed circumstances, the most powerful urge, the pressure of America and its vast resources in favour of the clarification of war and peace aims is lacking. The task of demanding clarification has, therefore, fallen on the colonial peoples and uninfluential political and intellectual groups.

H. G. Wells' efforts towards the defining of war aims are well known. Other individuals and groups too are demanding the same thing. Even the fighting lines are not immune from it. A soldier contributor under the pen-name "Cadet" writing in the March issue of the *World Review* discusses this question. He believes that by April 1941, the British and the Nazis will equally have first class military equipment. "But," he says,

we could possess one priceless asset that the Nazis can never possess. We could have a British army which had figured out for itself what it was fighting about, precisely what sort of people it was against and roughly what it meant to do with victory when victory had been won.

Evidently this soldier contributor does not agree with the ruling politicians and does not think that the aim of war is mere victory. The soldier continues:

At the present time the British Army is not particularly clear about any of these three points. The prevailing official attitude could be expressed as follows: 'Well, boys, there is a war on and

naturally we have got to win it' This attitude is not good enough. . . . because this war isn't just any old war, it is a very particular kind of war. Our opponents aren't any old opponents. They are a particular kind of opponent. And finally our victory this time cannot be used in any old way. Yet the confusion in the army about how victory is to be used is paralysing.

The position taken up here is the same taken up by the Indian National Congress. If a common British soldier whose duty as defined in the military and honour codes is not to question why but to do and die, feels at this time of world history the need for a statement of war and peace aims beyond mere victory, how much more so must a nation feel that is forcibly involved in a quarrel that is neither of its instigation nor its seeking. If a British soldier thinks that only well defined moral aims can generate sufficient enthusiasm to compensate for the advantages of a perfectly regimented and seasoned military automata, much more must the Indian soldier feel likewise. The British soldier is better educated generally and politically; he sees before his eyes all the preparations going on for the invasion of his island home, he witnesses every day the havoc that is wrought by enemy sea and air action and yet even he needs something more than mere victory, something psychical and moral to further steel his heart and put iron in his soul against the aggressors. In India, not only the soldier but the general public have to be enthused. However beneficent British rule may have been—to-day this is an antiquated mid-Victorian superstition—the fact that this rule is a foreign domination and that India is a helpless dependency is too obvious to be ignored. It acts as a great damper to the enthusiasm of the people. Add to this the policy that has been followed after the war, when normally speaking it was to England's obvious best interest to conciliate Indian public opinion. Even the most moderate politician is constrained to admit that there is no desire to part with power. If the Britisher in India were not living in his Himalayan isolation, he would know what is passing in the minds of Indians. He would know that his reluctance to part with power at this

juncture surprises and disheartens even those who wish him well. The reasons given for the denial of responsibility to Indians, the want of settlement between the Congress and the League, deceive nobody. Rather, people have begun to be progressively convinced that the British statesmen have come to an open or tacit understanding with reactionary Muslim League forces to keep India down. They ask in wonder why is this done in the hour of England's greatest peril? The only answer that occurs to millions of them is that Indian resources will be needed by England for its economic recovery after the war.

It is to allay such apprehension in the minds of people, to put moral enthusiasm in them and to make India feel identity of interest with England, that the Indian National Congress has insisted upon a declaration of Indian independence and an enunciation of war and peace ends. It is not a question of bargaining. It is a condition precedent for enthusiastic and single-minded war effort. Mere hatred of and opposition to the Nazi and Fascist creed would be only a negative force. Something more positive, purposeful and dynamic is necessary to rouse the moral and spiritual fervour of the general public and the soldier. This alone can set off the advantages of physical and technical efficiency derived by the enemy armies through years of training under expert guidance. The history of revolutions, national and political, bears witness to the fact that enthusiasm generated by the consciousness of a just and moral cause has more than compensated mere military and strategic advantages. When Gandhiji talks of moral support, he is thinking of this consciousness of a moral purpose and a just cause and the holy zeal that accompany these. England can get enough of men and materials from India, through official effort, but if the consciousness of right and justice and the consequent enthusiasm and fervour are also necessary conditions of success against an enemy superior in physical might and technical skill and instruments, then these in India can only be supplied by Gandhiji and the Congress.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

By "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

The late Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar

THE death of Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar removes from our midst a lawyer of great eminence and an outstanding personality in the public life of the country. As a lawyer, he won his spurs pretty early in life and quickly rose to the top of the profession. The thoroughness with which he mastered the cases, the quickness of his grasp of essentials, the vigour and eloquence of his advocacy, and the fearless independence which always characterised his actions won for him universal esteem from the Bench and the Bar. The fruits of his vast learning and mature judgment are embodied in more than one of the books he has written and edited. His new edition of Mayne's *Hindu Law* is a classic of its kind, unrivalled for its learning and authority.

But so dynamic and many-sided a personality could hardly be confined long to the limitations of the profession. And for the last twenty years, he has been an outstanding figure in the public life of South India. His independence of thinking, his amazing powers of organisation, his zeal for the causes he espoused and the sacrifice of money or health in pursuit of what he deemed his public duty, made him a power to be reckoned with. He presided over the Session of the Indian National Congress held at Gauhati in 1926. On his invitation, the next session of the Congress was held in Madras the following year and he induced the Congress to adopt the "independence" resolution.

As a politician, he was singularly free from the bias of communalism. Though in the political field he has held views of his own at variance with those of Gandhiji and other leaders of the National Congress, he has always held the attention of the public as a man of ideas and a resolute patriot.

Freedom within the Empire

The stress of war has occasioned a lot of generous sentiments in responsible quarters without, however, any relation to what actually obtains in the countries of the Empire. We were familiar with such pleasant courtesies exchanged between Britain and her Dependencies and Colonies during the last great war. Lord Olivier, a former Secretary of State for India, calls attention to an advertisement of the British Ministry of Information glorifying the British Empire as "a family of free nations" in which "men and women of every colour are working out their own destiny" and that "in this war they are fighting shoulder to shoulder of their own free will".

The ex-Secretary of State, with his knowledge of the real condition of affairs in India and elsewhere, is stung by the anomaly of this exalted description of a thing that does not exist. "Unhappily," he says, "facts controvert those assertions."

The large majority of the people of the Empire are not free and have little or no say in either their own or imperial affairs. India, for instance, has been committed to this war without any consultation of the wishes of her people and this is leading to a very critical state of affairs in that country.

If the Ministry's statements are true, why, for example, are not India, Ceylon and Burma free and independent countries and why are Indians imprisoned for their attitude to the war and, in other parts of the Empire British subjects imprisoned for struggling to improve social conditions and raise the standard of living. Why has there been no undertaking to establish the democratic freedom of the peoples of the Colonies on the lines that they themselves shall freely determine?

Why, indeed, we ask?

Sir Mirza Ismail

After sixteen years of successful administration, Sir Mirza Ismail, Dewan of Mysore, has earned for himself great respect and popularity, not only in his own State but throughout British India as well. As chief executive of Mysore for over a decade and a half, he retained throughout the complete confidence of His Highness the late Maharaja. Mysore owes its present position among the States to the labours of a succession of able Dewans, who have guided its destinies in the past, and Sir Mirza's industrial policy has done not a little to modernize it and bring it in line with the progressive States. Sir Mirza is a veteran administrator whose contribution to the State has been as memorable as that of his illustrious predecessors—Sir K. Seshadri Iyer and Sir M. Visvesvaraya.

It is needless to discuss the circumstances leading to his retirement. Suffice it to remember that Sir Mirza held the high office uninterruptedly for more years than any of his predecessors and his record of service is not only great and striking but of which he may justly be proud. Apart from his administrative ability and his tact and judgment, his success was in no small measure due to the fact that as Dewan of a great Hindu State, he was free from the curse of communalism and was a patriot through and through.

Mr. N. Madhava Rao, who succeeds Sir Mirza, has had a brilliant academic career, is a pucca Mysore civilian, who has had ample experience in various high offices of the State—an experience which must stand him in good stead in the very responsible and arduous task which awaits him.

Businessmen and the Deadlock

The opposition of certain European Commercial interests to any plan of *rapprochement*, not to speak of concessions to Indian demands for constitutional reforms, is one of the saddest features of the present deadlock in India. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce is wroth against Mr. Arthur Moore of the *Statesman*, because he happens to hold views not exactly in conformity with the reactionary elements. The Chamber of Commerce cannot speak for the whole of the European Commercial interests even in Bengal, or even on behalf of the vast non-official European Commercial community in the other parts of India. It is significant that it should have taken itself so seriously as to urge its view that the India policy of His Majesty's Government as propounded by the Viceroy on August 8, 1940, and in subsequent utterances by H. E. and the Secretary of State offers India the most effective means of simultaneously advancing her war effort and her constitutional status within the empire.

Surely, the British Commercial community in India cannot be altogether unaware of the fact that the proposals embodied in the declaration have not found favour with any section of Indian public opinion whatever. No wonder that the preposterous statement should have elicited a strong rejoinder from the Indian Chamber,—a body representing the bulk of Indian businessmen in the country. Such an attitude, they rightly say, is not conducive to creating the necessary goodwill and spirit of co-operation and partnership between Britain and India by resolving the existing deadlock in their mutual interests and for achieving a common object. Such an attitude can, therefore, be characterised as one of positive disservice to the common cause.

The Indian Chamber rightly warns that the present impasse is not only prejudicial to Indo-British relationship but also detrimental to the wider economic interests of both India and Britain and must be speedily and satisfactorily ended.

Sapru-Gandhi Correspondence

Blessed are the peace-makers! But the release of the correspondence between Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President of the Muslim League, and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru on the one hand, and between Sir Tej Bahadur and Gandhiji on the other, shows that their lot is by no means enviable. All honour, however, to Sir Tej Bahadur who, undeterred by previous failures and the bitter experience of other politicians, bravely undertook a difficult task. Throughout the correspondence, Mr. Jinnah, lawyer-like, takes meticulous care to refer to Gandhiji as a Hindu leader. In his letter, dated 10th February, he says with apparent suavity: "I have always been ready and willing to see Mr. Gandhi or any other Hindu leader on behalf of the Hindu community." It is obvious that there cannot be any meeting-ground between Mr. Jinnah who deems himself as an unchallenged head of the Muslims, and Gandhiji and the Congress whose right to represent any but Hindu interests Mr. Jinnah would not recognise. Gandhiji is, of course, too shrewd a politician to be caught in the trap and he warns Dr. Sapru against the obvious futility of the attempt. On February 16, he writes to Dr. Sapru

Mr. Jinnah's letter confirms my fear. He would see me if I go "on behalf of the Hindu community". This I cannot do I do not represent the Hindu community I am not even a member of the Hindu Mahasabha

But you may not now get out of the situation. You must not mind my warnings I suggest your writing to Mr. Jinnah that his position is unsound, if you agree with me

Dr. Sapru did go on with his Conference and did write to Mr. Jinnah. With what

result every one knows. Mr. Jinnah has been insolent and more proud of his position than ever.

It is a consolation to note that there are, however, other leaders in the Muslim community who do not think or act like Mr. Jinnah. Sir Sultan Ahmed in a recent communication to the Press expresses his public sympathy for the proposal of Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan and Mr. Fazlul-Huq for a conference of all Premiers including those in prison—to concert measures for the removal of the present deadlock,

Dr. Khan on the Muslim League

League propaganda is rather crude. Nawab Bahadur Yar Jung of the All-India Muslim League and leader of the Pakistan delegation, made an astounding statement the other day that Dr. Khan Sahib, the Congress Premier of the N.-W. F. Province and his fellow-workers, favoured the League for all practical purposes, although they were ostensibly Congressmen. This has elicited a prompt denial from the Khan Sahib. The Doctor's rejoinder is emphatic and unambiguous:

I was very clear in my conversation and I explained to them the principles for which we stood. Equally plain I was when I gave them an idea of what we thought of the League and its leaders and the absurd scheme of Pakistan. . . I believe that this statement has been deliberately made to mislead the Muslims of India. . . I prefer death to joining a futile set of people utterly devoid of action but loud on the stage. What the Pathan wants is action, sacrifice, and selfless service to the cause of the country. Where are these to be found in the Muslim League?

Could anything be more explicit?

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

Vichy-Berlin Collaboration

CONFIRMATION that many firms in unoccupied France are producing military supplies for Germany was given by Mr. R. A. Butler, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the House of Commons. Mr. Butler said:

"It is not known whether the terms of the recent agreement with Vichy specifically cover the utilisation of French industrial resources for war purposes against Britain. But there is no doubt that a number of industrial concerns in unoccupied France is working for the German account and is producing goods of military importance for Germany."

In this connection, Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, gave the people of France stern warning of the serious consequences likely to follow if the Vichy Government permit action detrimental to the British conduct of the war.

Mr. De Valera on Conscription in Ulster

"There can be no more grievous attack on any fundamental right than to force an individual to fight for a country to which he objects to belong," said Mr. De Valera, addressing a crowded Dail on the question of conscription in Ulster. He recalled that when the British Government proposed conscription for Northern Ireland, he made representations to London against it. Mr. De Valera continued that the six northern counties are part of Ireland and the inhabitants are Irishmen and nothing could alter that fact. No matter what political or economic changes may take place in the world, the people living in these two Islands are destined to live as neighbours.

He concluded with a warning:

We have refrained from doing anything that might be regarded as hostile to Britain. Should the British Government go ahead with the conscription proposal, the people of the two Islands would be thrown back into the old unhappy relations.

As we go to Press *Reuter* cables that the conscription proposal for northern Ireland has been dropped.

Rudolf Hess

Hess, who has fled from Germany and is now a prisoner in England, has been described as "Hitler's Man Friday" and "Hitler's shadow". The Fuehrer had nominated him as his successor-designate after Goering. He was responsible to Hitler alone—above Himmler, Goebbels, Von Ribbentrop and Goering. The mystery of his daring flight to Britain is yet unsolved.

The Battle of Crete

Crete still continues to be the centre of a grim fight. The battle of Crete, says *Reuter's* special correspondent, presents an amazing sight, like a fantasy of Mr. H. G. Wells, "with the sky around Suda Bay full of strange aircraft, drunkenly swaying parachutes, enemy planes filled with troops crash-landing in a restricted area."

Exciting manhunts among ravines and woods progress all over eastern Crete.

Syria and Iraq

The attack on Crete is not the only place at which the Germans are trying to break our Middle Eastern or rather Mediterranean front, observes *Capital*. Syria is a more insidious danger-point, both politically and militarily. The extension of Axis operations into Syria and Iraq is bound to exercise a profound influence on the policy and attitude of Turkey, Iran and other Islamic States.

The Duke of Aosta Surrenders

The Duke of Aosta, the Italian Commander-in-Chief in Abyssinia, accompanied by five Generals and a number of senior staff officers formally surrendered, on May 20, following the handing over of all equipment within the Amba Alagi area.

The total number of prisoners taken during and since the battle in this area amount to between 18,000 and 19,000.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

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May 1. Iraq Government object to landing of fresh British troops.

May 2. Churchill reshuffles his Cabinet.

May 3. General Smuts sends S. A. troops to Libya.

May 4. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru releases correspondence with Gandhiji.

May 5. President Roosevelt dedicates Woodrow Wilson's birth-place as a national shrine.

—Britain declines Turkey's mediation offer.

May 6. Mr. Eden opens the debate on the war situation in the Commons.

May 7. House of Commons expresses confidence in Government by 447 to 8 votes.

—Vichy reaches new agreement with Berlin.

May 8. Mr. Wendell Wilkie urges effective help to Britain.

May 9. Russia refuses recognition to Yugo Slav and Belgian governments.

—Nazi raider is sunk in the Indian Ocean.

May 10. Nazi raid on London—Westminster Abbey damaged.

May 11. Herr Hess, Hitler's deputy, fleeing from Germany arrives in Glasgow.

May 12. R. A. F. attacks enemy bases.

May 13. House of Commons meets in new quarters.

May 14. Vichy accepts Nazi terms.

—R. A. F. attacks Heligoland.

May 15. German aircraft in Iraq.

—Petain approves Darlan's negotiations.

May 16. President Roosevelt condemns Vichy's collaboration with Hitler.

May 17. A Press *communiqué* announces Sir Mirza Ismail's retirement and the appointment of Mr. N. Madhava Rao in his place as Dewan of Mysore.

—Germans rush reinforcements to Iraq.

May 18. Vichy replies to President Roosevelt, expressing determination to maintain integrity of territory.

May 19. Death of Sri S. Srinivasa Iyengar.

—Surrender of Italian troops in Abyssinia.

May 20. A Vichy *communiqué* announces release of 100,000 French prisoners.

May 21. Mr. C. Basudev, Mayor of Madras, is dead.

May 22. Mr. Eden warns Vichy.

May 23. Installation of H. H. Sri Kerala Varma as ruler of Cochin.

—Gen. Smuts on his 71st birthday is made Field-Marshal.

May 24. British battle cruiser H. M. S. Hood is blown off the coast of Greenland.

May 25. King of Greece and Greek Government leave Crete for Egypt.

May 26. Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chettiar, Dewan of Cochin, requests permission to retire.

May 27. Heavy fighting in Crete.

—British Navy sinks *Bismarck*.



SIR MIRZA ISMAIL
the retiring Dewan of Mysore.

The WORLD of BOOKS

CONSCIENCE AND LIBERTY. By R. S. W. Pollard. George Allen & Unwin. 2sh.

In this neat little volume, Mr. Pollard undertakes a spirited survey of the struggle for freedom of opinion and liberty of conscience from Socrates down to our times. The book is replete with facts and extracts from different authors on current happenings. An analytical discussion of the place of conscience and its relation to human personality is undertaken with great skill and clarity. The author stands for liberty, democracy, and equality as the saving principles of civilisation.

Mr. Pollard concludes his survey with specific proposals such as the abolition of the House of Lords, setting up proportional representation, etc., for maintaining and strengthening liberty and democracy in a rapidly developing collectivised state. Without freedom, religious faith degenerates into a paralysis and servile submission. Science congeals into dogma, art shrivels into imitation, and human society sinks into the level of animal society.

A PROSE MISCELLANY. Compiled by B. K. Talookdar, M.A., Ph.D. Mrs. Radha Bai Atmaram Sagoon, Bombay.

No less than 27 authors are represented in this fine collection of English Essays which includes such writers as Bacon, Addison, Swift, Goldsmith, Gibbon, Lamb, Coleridge, Kinglake, Macaulay and Ruskin. What is of particular interest to us is the inclusion of excerpts from the writings or speeches of Gokhale, Mrs. Naidu and Mr. A. S. Wadia.

DOCK LABOURERS IN BOMBAY. By R. P. Cholia. Edited by C. N. Vakil. Longmans Green & Co., Ltd. Rs. 4-8.

This neatly got-up book embodies the results of an enquiry into the conditions of work and living of the 10,000 and more dock labourers in the port of Bombay undertaken in the year 1933-34 on a 10 per cent. sample basis. There are two kinds of dock labourers: one, the principal dock labourers handling the cargo at the docks and two, other dock workers covering labourers on water, shore, mechanical workshop and railway. Of them all, about 22 per cent. are unskilled. The two main problems facing the dock labourers are the decreasing trade of the port and the heavy toll exacted from the wages of labourers by the parasitic class. The money-lender and the middleman like Tindals, Toliwalas, or Muccadams constitute the parasitic class taking away a share from the due wages of the labourers. The mode and standard of living differ from one class of labourer to another among them, but on the whole most of them are in debt and suffer on that score. The remedies suggested are registration of workers and their restriction, direct employment of labour, fixation of minimum wages and some measures against unjust attachment on the pay of the employees. The enquiry has been undertaken in the face of a number of difficulties inherent in its nature and has brought together much material generally inaccessible. It fills a gap in the study of labour conditions in the city of Bombay.

INDIAN STATES PROBLEM. By M. K. Gandhi.
Navajivan Press, Ahmedabad. Rs. 4.

CHRISTIAN MISSION. By M. K. Gandhi.
Navajivan Press, Ahmedabad. Rs. 2.

The two books are the latest additions to the series of Gandhiji's writings and utterances on the respective subjects. Culled from the files of *Young India* and the *Harijan*, they cover a period of over twenty years and embody his complete views on the subjects of Indian States and Christian Missions. Full texts of important documents relating to the subjects dealt with by Gandhiji are also incorporated in these pages, besides writings of others which are supplementary to his own and which were originally published with his approval. The arrangement of the articles in chronological order are of particular value to the student of current affairs, as they throw light on the sequence of events from time to time and their reaction on Gandhi at different stages of their evolution.

THOUGHTS AND THINGS. By S. V. Ramamurty, I.C.S. Kumbakonam Parliament, Kumbakonam. As. 8.

This is a print of the S. Ramanujam Memorial lecture for 1940, delivered at Kumbakonam by Mr. S. V. Ramamurty, I.C.S. The learned lecturer, himself a distinguished Mathematician, looks at the world from the point of view of mathematics, envisages God Himself as a pure mathematician and gives a brilliant exposition of what he calls a "Mathematical theory of Monism". He seeks to combine two hypotheses—one derived from the *Synthesis* of India and the other from the *Analysis* of Europe and thus finds a meeting point.

ECONOMICS: A SOCIAL SCIENCE. By Father Carty, Trichinopoly.

This book constitutes a collection of the six Sir William Meyer Lectures for 1939-40, delivered by Father Carty at the University of Madras. The main theme running through all the lectures is that Economics is, and should be, a practical science devoted to the betterment of humanity. The lectures form a brilliant piece of criticism and constructive analysis, full of forceful arguments and amply supported by the views of eminent authorities. They establish the point that Economics should not be a sterile and merely positive science, but should be a useful instrument in furthering the economic progress and social happiness of mankind.

Having been a teacher for over thirty years, the author has produced a very able defence of Economics as a light and guide to the affairs of men. This book bristles with critical discussions and illuminating quotations from eminent authors and thinkers from different parts of the world. These lectures from the doyen of South Indian Economics are bound to be of great educational value, both for students and for those who are interested in the social improvement and economic progress of their country.

SHANGHAI. By P. B. Kalkini. Published by the New Book Company, Hornby Road, Bombay. Rs. 1.

This is a collection of Poems by a writer who is already well known in the literary field. Realistic verses like these are essentially modern in outlook and vigorous in expression.

MODERN TRAVANCORE: A Handbook of Information. By A. Padmanabha Iyer, Journalist, Trivandrum.

Planned on the lines of the author's book on Mysore, "Modern Travancore" is precisely what a handbook of information should be. Its 400 pages are crammed with facts and statistics relating to different aspects of Travancore life and government. There are two maps and an exhaustive index for easy and ready reference to any topic in which the reader may be interested. The author is a well known journalist, has had experience in compilations of this kind and is an adept at getting precise and up-to-date information relating to the different departments of the State. The result is a book of copious information on many aspects of life and progress in a state which, under its enterprising Dewan, is making headway in all directions.

HINTS ON MUSEUM EDUCATION. By J. C. Basak, 868, Upper Chitpore Road, P. O. Beaden Street, Calcutta. Re. 1.

A remarkably informative book on the utilisation of Museums as an effective means for the diffusion of general knowledge among the people. It is an attempt to make museums which at present may be regarded as static, archaeological and antiquarian, into institutions dynamic, modern and utilitarian.

BUDDHA THE GREAT. By Mohammadali Haz Salmin and S. R. Aiyar. Re. 1-4.

The two authors have given us within a space of fifty pages a clear and pictorial account of the greatness of Gautama the Buddha. The familiar story of the Prince-Philosopher is narrated in very attractive style.

A SHORT LIFE OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA.

Published by Adwaita Ashrama, Almora.

This work gives in a nutshell the life and the life-work of the genius who kindled the lamps of self-conscious nationalism and integral Hinduism in India and took them and their illumination with him all over the world. It gives us a *resumé* of his remarkable life and his meeting with his master who transformed and sublimated his life. After Sri Ramakrishna's passing away, Swami Vivekananda wandered for two years all over India, from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. He spread the gospel in America and in England. Though he is dead, he lives for ever more. The work winds up with some of his great utterances, among which is the supreme utterance: "I shall inspire men everywhere until the world shall know that it is one with God."

BOOKS RECEIVED

GLIMPSES OF ANCIENT GLORY: Essays in Ancient History. By Prof. K. N. Vaswani. With a Foreword by Sadhu Vaswani, New Book Company, Bombay.

TOPICS OF THE DAY. By S. S. Ayengar. Sri Vani Vilas Press, Trivandrum.

WORLD PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS (1941 to 1945). By B. V. Raman, M.B.A.S. Mallewaraki, Bangalore.

STATES OF INDIAN PRINCES. By Pycroft Nair. Navajivan Press, Ahmedabad.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE SEA-BORNE TRADE OF BRITISH INDIA. Vol II. Manager of Publications, Delhi.

VALLABHABHYAN DAYAMER. By Kodandarama Kavi. Madras University Telugu Series, University of Madras.

MARKISM AND THE INDIAN IDEAL. By Brajendra Kishore Roy Chowdhury. Thacker, Spink & Co. Ltd., Calcutta.

THE WORKING OF THE PROTECTIVE TARIFF IN INDIA (Sir Kikabhai Premchand Readership Lectures 1938-39.) By L. C. Jain, M.A., Ph.D. University of Delhi.

INDIAN STATES

Hyderabad

THE NIZAM'S SOVEREIGNTY

A Moslem organization in Hyderabad known as Majlis Ittihadul Musilmeen has been responsible for the theory that Hyderabad's sovereignty vests in the Muslims of the State and that the Nizam merely embodies the Moslem sovereignty. The Nizam's Government has now found it necessary to issue a *Gazette Extraordinary* repudiating the Majlis's view. It stresses the Nizam's "undivided sovereignty over all his subjects, irrespective of class and creed". It appears that the Majlis has recently used its theory in support of its demand for responsible government and had argued that certain statements in the Nizam's Government's Reforms scheme accord with its view. Moslem crowds, says the *Gazette*, have been made to repeat the cry: "We are the Kings of Deccan." The *Gazette* is a stern reproof to those who demand responsible government on behalf of one community.

THE NIZAM'S APPEAL

The Nizam has made a personal appeal in an Urdu daily to the different communities inhabiting the Dominion that just as they participated in the funeral of his mother irrespective of caste or creed, similarly they should sink their differences and make renewed efforts towards communal harmony and friendship among the communities, so that peace, tranquillity, and prosperity might reign supreme in the State.

The Nizam thinks that this will be possible only if efforts in this direction are made with sincerity by those commanding the respect of the public.

Mysore

SIR MIRZA AND MR. MADHAVA RAO

A press communique states that H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore has been pleased to sanction one year's leave to Sir Mirza Ismail preparatory to retirement, the leave to take effect from June 1, 1941.

From this date Rajamanthrapravina N. Madhava Rao, First Member of the Executive Council, will officiate as the Dewan of Mysore.

MYSORE PRISON REFORM

The abolition of whipping and solitary confinement as forms of judicial punishment is unanimously recommended by the Chandrasekhara Aiyar Committee Report on Prison Reforms in Mysore, which was released for publication in the middle of last month.

The report is a bulky volume covering over 260 pages of printed matter and deals in an exhaustive way with several aspects of prison reform. A survey of the prison system of Mysore and an enquiry into prison administration in British India have been made and after setting out their recommendations, the Committee have added to the report appendices which arise out of the recommendations.

MYSORE LAWYERS' CONFERENCE

The abolition of capital punishment, and the introduction of a Bar Council Bill in the Mysore Legislature, were urged by the Mysore Lawyers' Conference at its two-day session, Mr. G. Devoji Rao presiding.

The Conference also urged the withdrawal of the Public Security Act, the Newspaper and Printing Press Act and the Contempt of Courts (Amending) Act, as they curtailed the liberties of the people.

Baroda

EDUCATION IN BARODA STATE

The history of education in the State begins in 1871, when for the first time two Gujarati and two Marathi primary schools were established by the Government. Progress was at first naturally slow and when the late Maharaja Saheb Sayajirao III assumed full powers in 1881, there were no more than 180 primary schools with 7,485 pupils. Under his inspiration, however, education developed rapidly. In 1893, compulsory primary education was introduced as an experimental measure in the Amreli district and was rapidly extended till in 1906 it was applied to the whole State. Primary education is now free and compulsory between the ages of seven and twelve, and all vernacular education is free. The Government now spends nearly 80 lakhs of rupees on education.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Baroda has a good record of work done by its agricultural as well as non-agricultural societies as a vital part of the wide-spread and comprehensive co-operative movement, which covers the State with a network of beneficent organisations. This can be seen from the following brief account of the work done in this sphere in the year 1939-40.

The number of agricultural societies with taluka development associations rose during the year 1939-40 from 998 to 1,026.

The average membership per society was 85.5 as against 88.3 during the previous year. The working capital increased appreciably during the year. The repayments show an appreciable increase of Rs. 8.71 lakhs. Overdues decreased as societies were reconstructed, and recoveries were better.

Travancore

ELECTRIC POWER IN TRAVANCORE

The vision of a day when cheap electric power would be available throughout the country-side, not only for large scale industrial production but in every village for growing better and more valuable crops and for purposes of cottage industry was envisaged by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Dewan of Travancore, while switching the electric power supply of Shencottah town.

ECONOMIC SURVEY IN TRAVANCORE

An economic survey of Travancore on a stratified and representative sampling basis in 55 selected centres, along with the present census, has been sanctioned by the Government of Travancore. About 200 full-time investigators who will mostly be students of economics and statistics as well as other educated young men will be employed by the Census Commissioner for the work, which is expected to be completed shortly.

Patiala

THE PRAJA MANDAL

"It is not denied by the Government pleader that the Riyasti Praja Mandal, Patiala, of which the accused is the General Secretary, is carrying on its business peacefully. It is not a society which conducts subversive activities." Thus said the Sessions Judge of Patiala in acquitting Sardar Wazir Singh Dardi. The Judge further remarked: "When the society is such whose aims and objects are to remain loyal and faithful to His Highness' Government and Person, it cannot be expected from its General Secretary to use any words which might offend the State any way."

Cochin

COCHIN'S PREMIER MUNICIPALITIES

Reviewing the administration reports of the three premier Municipalities of the State, *viz.*, Ernakulam, Cochin and Trichur, the Government of Cochin observes that the incidence of taxation in the Trichur Municipality continued to be low, property tax being levied here at the low rate of 6 per cent. of the annual value of buildings as against 11½ per cent. in the Municipalities of Ernakulam and Mattancherri. Neither lighting tax nor water and drainage tax has been levied in this Municipality so far. Government have stressed on more than one occasion the extreme need of enhancing the rate of taxation in Trichur. The Municipality has yet to provide one of the most pressing needs of the town, *viz.*, a system of good drinking water supply and has also to tackle effectively the problem of dust nuisance. Government hopes that the Municipal Council will show courage to enhance the level of taxation in order to meet the primary needs of inhabitants.

Jodhpur

One of the largest in India, Jodhpur is the first State in Rajputana in respect of area, income and administration. The area is 86,000 square miles, population 21½ lakhs according to the 1931 Census, and the average annual income is nearly 1½ crores or 17 million rupees.

It extends from the Aravalli Hills in the East to the Rann of Cutch in the West. The soil, climate, and the rainfall vary greatly; the area adjoining the Aravallis is more fertile, while the western part is really a portion of the great Indian desert, the Thar. Rainfall is scanty and precarious except in the Aravalli region.

Indore

INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

His Highness the Maharaja Holkar has accorded sanction to the opening of a large Sugar Mill in the State, with a working capacity of 400 to 600 tons. The gentleman who has agreed to start this Mill will enjoy some concessions, including a free gift of land for the purposes of the factory, a monopoly for 20 years and exemption from Customs duty on machinery, etc. With a vast market ready at hand in the State and protected from foreign competition by Customs duty and with light taxation, the factory is expected to make substantial profits. The most important consideration is of cultivation of a paying cash crop like sugar-cane in the interest of the cultivators of the State and the revenue to be derived by the State from the levy of excise duty and industrial tax.

Bhopal

POWER ALCOHOL IN BHOPAL

It is understood that the Bhopal Government intend shortly to introduce suitable legislation, making compulsory the use of petrol mixed with power alcohol as motor fuel. It is stated that this is being done to encourage power alcohol industry and provide against possible petrol shortage.

A fully equipped modern plant is already manufacturing power alcohol in Bhopal, and the State Government, it is said, are awaiting the results of tests being carried out to ascertain the most suitable proportion in which power alcohol and petrol should be mixed before enforcing the use of the mixture as motor fuel.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

Ceylon

INDO-CYLON RELATIONS

Addressing the eleventh annual general meeting of the Indian Mercantile Chamber of Ceylon, Mr. F. Dadabhoy, the retiring President, made a comprehensive review of commercial, economic and political developments in Ceylon in the past year. Referring to Indo-Ceylon relations he regretted the break-down of the Indo-Ceylon Exploratory Conference held at New Delhi and remarked: "The trouble is that the respective protagonists see so much of their side of the case that they are apt to lose sight of the other side. He felt sure that Indo-Ceylon differences were not so acute as to be incapable of peaceful settlement.

Characterising the introduction of the control of immigration and registration of non-Ceylonese Bills, which have now passed the second reading as ill-timed and unwise, Mr. Dadabhoy said: "The precipitate haste and the spirit with which the Ministers have launched the Bills following closely upon the failure of the Conference at New Delhi were not marks of statesmanship. That the implications of these two Bills with their humiliating and harsh provisions are opposed to all canons of fair play and justice are obvious."

Mr. Dadabhoy also deplored the gross exaggerations which had marked the utterances of some responsible leaders and pointed out that according to the Labour Controller's figures at the outside approximately 400,000 out of 679,000 men and women on the estates would be potential voters. These figures do not justify the feeling that the power of the vote, which has to a limited extent been conferred on Indians, might assume such proportions as to nullify the political power of the Ceylonese.

PLANTERS' MEMORANDUM ON INDIANS

"The Indians living in Ceylon is over 250,000 Indians all of whom except less than 25,000, have lived in Ceylon for over five years," declares Mr. D. E. Hamilton, Chairman of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, in a memorandum on behalf of the Association regarding Indo-Ceylon relations and the planting industries.

In the course of the memorandum, Mr. Hamilton points out that there is agreement among the three parties concerned, viz., the Industries, the Ceylon Government, and the Government of India in regard to restriction of further immigration of Indians in Ceylon. Mr. Hamilton expresses the view that neither the present position of Indians in Ceylon nor their birth-rate justifies any fear of political domination by Indians.

Regarding the question of franchise, Mr. Hamilton declares that at most only 400,000 estate Indians would immediately qualify for it. He states that it is estimated that the maximum number of Indians now in Ceylon who could possibly qualify for franchise is about 450,040 and not 900,000 as both Mr. D. S. Senanayake and S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake have stated.

Mr. Hamilton points out that of these the vast majority have lived in Ceylon for an average of probably 20 years, while only less than 25,000 had lived in Ceylon for less than five years. He adds: "While the Ministers failed to reach an agreement in Delhi, they ran the risk of upsetting the present trade and did not develop increased trade, because statesmanship was bankrupt in finding some way of dealing with these 250,000 Indians."

South Africa

INDIAN PENETRATION COMMISSION

The Indian Penetration Commission completed its work on May 9 after 54 public sittings in six months during which 2,100 pages of evidence were taken.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Mr. A. I. Kajeer representing the Natal Indian Congress thanked the Commission for the kindness and courtesy extended to them during the period of the sittings. He added that the fate of the half million Indians resident in South Africa was dependent on the Commission's findings. He hoped that it had been shown to the Commission that Indians had been assimilated in the general South African life. "India is our country of origin but is now merely a term to us. Since the Capetown Agreement, we have shown by our efforts our desire to assume responsibilities, burdens and risks being true South Africans, but we hope to receive some benefits from our citizenship."

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR S. A.

The *Leader*, the Indian Weekly in Pietermaritzburg, opposing the appointment of an Indian civil servant as High Commissioner for South Africa, makes a plea for utilising the services of a non-official. Through the High Commissioner, the paper declares, South Africa must see India interpreted in terms of its progress and its cultural advancement. He must also in some measure convey Indian feeling on the subject of treatment of Indians domiciled abroad. We refuse to believe that there cannot be an Indian in the public life of India patriotic enough to place the cause of Indians overseas greater than himself. It is among these men the Government of India must look for its choice.

Malaya

INDIA AND MALAYA

Disinclination to travel on the part of the unsophisticated labouring classes who, "in spite of discrimination of information, are not altogether free from entertaining credulous rumours during war time", was partly responsible for the considerable fall in the volume of migration between India and Malaya.

This view is expressed in the annual report of Mr. C. S. Venkatachar, the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya, for 1939.

The ban on assisted emigration which came into force from June 15, 1938, was in force throughout the year 1939. The effect of the ban on the movement of labour is seen both on immigration into and emigration from Malaya. There was a considerable fall in the volume of migration both ways. This was also due to causes arising out of war conditions, such as the increase in the passage rates from the Madras ports to the Straits Settlements and irregular sailings since the outbreak of the war.

Burma

INDIAN IMMIGRATION INTO BURMA

The Government of Burma have given notice of the termination of the Burma Immigration Order, 1937, with effect from April 1, 1941, which will cease to have any effect on March 31, 1942.

The *communiqué* explains that under the terms of the order, immigration into Burma from India cannot be subjected to any restrictions which were not in force at the time of separation, and 12 months' notice on the part of the Government of Burma was required to terminate its operation.

TOPICS From PERIODICALS

EMANCIPATE INDIA

"A free India could become as valuable an asset to England as a free America," declares Mr. Edgar Snow, the American journalist and writer in an article in the American magazine *Asia*. "It may be suggested that the emancipation of India would mean the end of British unity. It is the only way in fact to create it."

Britain and the Dominions—if they wish to preserve their unity as a political force—need to proclaim a programme of emancipation of the colonies as the basis of a world commonwealth of democracies.

Do not imagine that political frontiers can really be sealed in war and that men's minds are not reaching out everywhere for a weapon with which to defeat their own oppressors. Britain offers her allies behind enemy lines little to fight for and in this transitional world it is not enough to have something to fight against.

Britain's political weakness in India is quite apparent; otherwise he says there should be no necessity for Britain to require American aid to hold her position in Asia.

India is a nation of nearly four hundred millions with a war potential far richer than Japan and China combined. If the British are unable to defend India and its frontiers at Singapore and Burma without American help, it is a significant commentary. The same thing applies to the Dutch in the Indies. The Dutch were there long before the Meiji Restoration in Japan, and had the East Indians made sufficient progress under them they would be quite able to take care of themselves having much richer resources than Japan.

The Indian Empire has become increasingly anachronistic in a modern world and is probably the main cause of the decadence of British political life in recent years. No one who has lived in India can have failed to be depressed by the immense time-lag between the archaic social life of this huge nation and the rest of the world even in the Orient. It is an enormous millstone round the neck of oriental emancipation and the progress of the whole world.

Democracy, if it is to survive, must pose an ideal which can capture the

political will and invoke the courage of the peoples.

Democracy in England in particular needs to reinforce itself with something no less than a new charter of human liberty, a new declaration of the rights of man. Rulers in England may not see this, but men in England's colonies do, and it is there in her flanks that England is weakest.

Britain and the Dominions—if they wish to preserve their unity as a political force—need to proclaim a programme of emancipation of the colonies as the basis of a world commonwealth of democracies. Such a declaration might include:

First, the promise of post-war Indian and Burmese independence with compulsory education and self-government to begin immediately in a role of co-operation with the present governments in full mobilization for anti-Fascist war;

Second, a comprehensive programme of compulsory education for rapid democratic self-government in the backward colonies to begin immediately as part of war mobilization and to end in independence;

Third, the promise of independence to all the colonies or conquered nations of the Fascist empires, who struggle for their own emancipation, including Korea, China, and Indo-China;

Fourth, the promise of financial, technical, industrial, medical and other social help to the colonial countries and a programme of colonial industrialization on the basis of State co-ordinated co-operative or collective economy;

Fifth, a statement of conditions of the liberation of the colonies, their adherence to a federation of democratic states of the world under a customs union, mutual defence agreements, compulsory arbitration of international disputes, joint support of an international army, air force and navy, the adoption of a democratic form of government, perhaps, a common currency and international disarmament within a framework of collective security.

The declaration might be accompanied by an invitation to all free democratic nations, to join the federation in the struggle against Fascism and contribute their share of talent and capital to the reconstruction of the world.

THE BOMBAY CONFERENCE

In a lengthy rejoinder to Mr. Amery's criticism of the Bombay Conference, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, writing in the *Twentieth Century* for May, pricks the bubble of Pakistan and says pointedly that "for the British generally to agree to the demand for the dissection of India, will be an act of black treachery to India". Referring to Mr. Amery's analogy of the eighteenth century in India, Sir Tej observes:

The analogy of the 18th century holds good and should be a warning to Hindus and Muslims alike. Once the strength of the Centre at Delhi was gone, the disruption and disintegration of the rest of the country was a matter of a few years only. To Hindus, it should also be a warning that they were not able, in spite of the advantage of numbers they had at that time, to set their house in order.

If the tidal wave of totalitarianism, either of the Berlin or the Moscow variety, "comes like a Ganges flood, lapping up to the very frontier of India," our position will be one of defencelessness, and after a few years of chaos and confusion, we shall have to start afresh. This can by no means be a pleasing prospect to any reflective mind.

When it is apparent that two big organised parties have been carrying on a domestic war under the inspiration of different ideas, and when each one of them claims for its principle and resolutions the binding force of a creed, it is extremely dangerous, he points out, to make agreement between them a pre-requisite of any change in the constitution.

What is to happen if they do not come to any agreement? Is the old constitution, which has lost all vitality and which satisfies no one, to continue? Will the British Parliament then abdicate its right or claim to frame any constitution for us? Will other parties in India be totally ignored?

Judging of the future in the list of presented obstacles and perversities, one almost feels that we have been placed at the mercy of some leaders who believe that they have a certain mission in life and that they can afford to tolerate no other.

I should on no account favour any scheme put forward by the Muslims, Hindus or any other class of people which aims at the fragmentation or splitting up India into parts.

Whatever faults you may find with the British, there is no doubt that after Aoka's time they are the only people who have been able to evolve and maintain the geographical and political integrity of India.

Even the empire of the Akbar the Great did not comprehend the whole of India. Hitherto it was impossible to speak with any degree of definiteness as to what Pakistan meant. At the Madras session, their leader has put it beyond all doubt.

It hardly occurred to the speaker that there were others, particularly the minorities in these zones who could say that they will never agree to it. Are they to be forced? And what is to happen to the very appreciable number of Muslims outside these "independent" States in the North-West and Eastern zones of India? Are they to take the apprehended risks of submission to the majority rule of the Hindus for the sake of Muslim majorities in these two favoured parts of India?

Sir Tej, of course, would as much object to dictation on the part of the Congress and the Hindu Maha Sabha or any other body as on the part of the Muslim League.

To divide India in this manner would be to divide it into two hostile camps, obstructing such other's progress, intriguing against each other and possibly warring against each other.

Who is going to keep the peace between Muslim India and the rest of India? The British? How can they and why should they when Muslim India wants completely independent Muslim States and similarly the other parts of India are to be equally independent?

INDIA IN PERIODICALS

AGRICULTURAL REORGANISATION IN INDIA. By Dr. Rajanikanta Das. [The Modern Review, May 1941.]

THE MADRAS SEPOY. By Prof. C. S. Srinivasachari. [The New Review, May 1941.]

THE COMMUNAL PROBLEM: A NEW APPRAISAL. By Dr. Nandalal Chatterjee. [The XX Century, May 1941.]

PRESS INVECTIVE IN INDIA AND BRITAIN. By Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha. [The Hindustan Review, May 1941.]

ELEMENTS OF HINDUISM. By Dr. L. A. Ravi Varma. [Vedanta Kesari, May 1941.]

IN QUEST OF SADRUS. By J. M. Ganguli. [Prabuddha Bharata, May 1941.]

STATE CAPITALISM

A writer in the *New Statesman and Nation*, Mr. Nicholas Davenport, suggests that Parliament should pass a law vesting the ownership of all capital in the State—land, buildings, plant, equipment, cash, in other words, all fixed and working capital.

I am not suggesting that there is any crime in owning capital. But I maintain that the right to own and dispose of capital is derived from the State and must be regulated by the State. It would not be practicable, of course, to take over and husband all the land or all the cash and securities. Homes and gardens would be left in private hands and the owners would pay a rent to the State. Farms which are efficiently managed would remain in private hands also, each becoming a tenancy of the State. A certain amount of cash and securities, no more than \$500,000 each, would be permitted to remain in the hands of individuals.

It is fair to assume that the State takes over public services and public utilities, but it is imperative, says the writer, that they should be managed on individual lines, and that individual talent and imagination should have scope in them.

I am not enamoured of the civil service type of mind which can only be attuned to humdrum administration. If the new State is to flourish, it must evoke the creative impulse of the individual. I submit that each public utility or service be managed by a Commissioner, specially chosen for his ability and enthusiasm, who should be responsible only to a Board of Directors and through them to Parliament.

The public services should include the post office, cables and wireless, broadcasting, water and drainage, harbours, roads, railways and banking, education, health and amusement.

I do not suppose this list will frighten any one except the bank and railway directors, the governors of public and private schools, the fashionable doctors and the amusement racketeers. The nationalisation of banks and railways is long overdue. The governors of banks should be appointed not by virtue of their wealth but on the grounds of their individual scientific merits.

Public utilities should comprise such investment industries as gas, electricity, coal, iron and steel, heavy engineering, cement, building, chemicals, such consumption trades as drink (beer and spirits), milk, meat, sugar, etc.

It is important that these investment industries should be State operated, because it must control the rate of investment if it is to maintain economic equilibrium.

No industry needs a more thorough cleaning than the theatres and films, but it needs more than cleansing, says the writer.

We must have a National Theatre and a National Film Centre, where State funds can provide a nursery for native talent and where cultural propaganda can be attempted. A country which neglects its own theatres, its news-reels and its documentary films is throwing away the greatest weapon at its peaceful disposal in international affairs.

Something, too, must be done about newspaper millionaires. Newspapers, says the writer, should represent sections of public opinion and should be controlled by a panel of representative public men.

A law to prohibit their control by private enterprise and to limit the percentage of earnings allowed on capitals invested in these newspaper trusts is recommended as the simple way to end the abuse of papers by newspaper millionaires.

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The Indian Merchants' Chamber (Bombay), etc., etc.

ORAL or POSTAL TUITION
WRITE OR CALL FOR FREE PROSPECTUS

April '42.

MUSLIMS IN SOUTH INDIA

While the Madras Session of the Muslim League was emphatic on the two-nation theory, the *Souvenir* published under the authority of the Reception Committee has a thoughtful article demonstrating its impracticability in the present conditions of India. The writer, Mr. K. J. Mathew Tharakar, M.A., a research scholar of the Madras University, gives cogent reasons to show how fantastic the scheme would be if attempted to be worked. For, Hindus and Mahomedans have lived together in complete harmony for many generations, and it would be a travesty of history and common sense to go back on the lessons of the past.

Everywhere in South India, the Muslim community lived in perfect amity with the Hindus, retaining the common vernacular and preserving to a very large extent the Hindu customs and habits of thought and expression, notwithstanding the religious change it had undergone.

With the expansion of the Mughal Empire to the south in the latter part of the seventeenth century, a new spirit swept through the community—a spirit to live more distinctly and intensely Muslim lives.

Even then, no hostility was shown to people professing Hinduism. Haider and Tipu had as their Prime Minister an able Brahmin, Purnayya. It would appear that they even gave endowments to certain temples.

One would really be surprised to note the large numbers of temples in this Presidency situated in close proximity to mosques. Only a narrow wall separates the famous temple at Thiruvallur from a mosque.

At the famous mosque at Nagore, near Tranquebar, streams of Hindus flock every year to make offerings at the tomb of the Muslim saint that lies buried there. There are other mosques, where similar offerings are made.

The spirit of Mohammed is said to pervade in one granite pillar in Tinnevely where daily *Puja* is done by Hindu votaries. Vows are made to it by Hindus who flock to seek cure of disease, rain and other boons. Ganga and cheroots are generally offered, because the Hindus think they are much to the liking of the Muslims.

Even to this day there is much in common between the Muslims in South India and the other communities, in habits, customs and outlook.

Times are, however, changing. We are living under the shadow of the great Hindu-Muslim controversy, which portends to grow more and more acute. There is real need to reflect on the past and see that an understanding is reached.

FAITH MOVES MOUNTAINS

"The Bhaktiyoga is the easiest method of God-attainment," says Swami Aseshananda in *Kalyana Kalpataru* :

Immense is the potentiality of Bhaktiyoga if it is saved from the pitfalls of narrow fanaticism and bigoted exclusiveness. This priceless gem is to be well guarded. An act of devotion even so slight is capable of producing inconceivable results. Just as from a small seed a huge banyan tree comes up shooting forth its branches on all sides, similarly from a little vestige of true and genuine faith, an uphill and arduous and colossal task of Himalayan height—God-realisation—the priceless treasure of eternal values, is achieved and acquired to the permanent joy of the weary pilgrim soul.

Rightly has it been said: "Faith moves mountains." Faith can work wonders even in this world of doubt and scepticism. It generates tremendous will power. It evokes fiery determination to face and grapple with untoward ills and dangers of life with majestic and serene calmness. It makes a dumb man eloquent and a cripple rise up and cross the mountains with immeasurable strength. Indomitable courage and irresistible power come to his aid to guide him to reach the goal.

WAR-TIME CONSOLATIONS

"It is a horrid business this that we are in," writes Rose Macaulay in the *World Review* describing the horrors of war—"grotesquely barbarous, uncivilized, inhumane and crazy way of life to have had forced on us by a set of barbarous gangsters". War is certainly revolting and beastly and yet we should not be blind to its consolations—these rather "small stars in a pretty murky night".

To begin with, one wakes up each morning (so far) alive and a little surprised sometimes to be so. Each extra day isn't a matter of course, but a gift that we hadn't necessarily counted on having.

We travel together as if poised over an abyss; life has been revealed as the crazily rocking hobgoblin thing it has really always been. We sleep more lightly too; and when we wake each morning we say: 'I am still here, then.' Saying this, we feel that we have scored another point over death and destruction, and the foe that prowls by night.

If you do wake alive, you may enjoy the pleasure of making a tour of the fresh ruins, if any, and if ruins are to your taste.

Of course no one wants ruins, but it is no use pretending that those made last night aren't interesting next day. How greatly our eighteenth century ancestors would have enjoyed them! They paid architects to build picturesque ruins in their grounds; we keep hordes of busy ruin-makers who nightly do it free. . . .

Here is a jumbled pile which was once a house and, dangling poised at its top, high above the street, is a large bath and a broken lavatory basin and seat. There, round the next corner, is a ruin with a little Austin car poised on its summit, blown up there from its garage by blast, a little battered, thickly coated with grey dust but still a car.

From such bizarre spectacles one must get what interest one can among the tragedies of smashed homes.

For æsthetic pleasure, you must wait until dark.

London nights, once garish, have grown beautiful, black, with tiny lights like glow-worms, piercing the blackness and on clear nights the stars parading in a new brilliance, blinded no more by the tawdry flares of city lights. Or, on moony nights, the city lies magically silver and black, an ivory town sharp with shadows and deep

lanes of night. And always the long lanes of light that search the skies, crossing, sliding, probing.

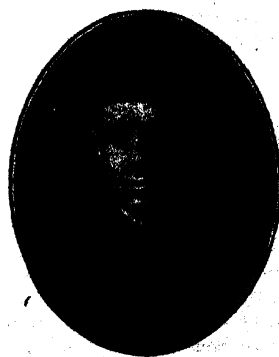
Suddenly the quiet is shattered by a long howling as of wolves on the trail; again and again the uncanny wail rises, swells and drops; it ceases, and after a minute or two comes that deep drone of bombing planes; flashes begin, and crashes; the sky is aflame with golden fruits that burst and are lost among the stars.

Above it the foe malevolently zooms, pitching down destruction with long whistling whooshes and thundering crashes.

And I say nothing for this horrid scene except that æsthetically, it has a kind of horrid and infernal beauty, and that, if you chance to be out in it, you do at least get an eyeful and see something you don't see as a rule in the London street.

There is another pleasure, less æsthetic—a sense of friendly companionship, a new comradeship, overriding class and sex. And then there are shelters.

Shelters must be counted among the major consolations of war for their addicts. They are a quite new pleasure and are among the town amenities most missed by evacuees to the country.



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—Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru.

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MODERN BUDDHISM

"Buddhism under European influence" is the subject of an interesting article by Mr. J. M. Ganguli in the *Aryan Path* for May. Disproportionate emphasis is put on what Buddha is supposed not to have taught rather than on what he actually taught by the modern scholars. Referring to this, Mr. Ganguli writes:

The modern Buddhists read the Buddhist literature, discuss and expostulate but do not sit quietly and worshipfully to realise Truth. Buddhism has been torn out of its devotional setting and reduced to mere abstract metaphysics super-imposed on some precepts and ethical ideas. But faith and devotion are the essential ingredients of all religion whereby it reaches the innermost recesses of the heart and makes the subtlest perceptions admissible there and such faith and devotion arise and develop with increasing realisation and expanding consciousness, which produce also a prayerful mood.

European scholars may have created interest in the religion of the Buddha among some intellectuals in distant lands; what they have carried afar, however, has not been the soul-stirring and life-revolutionising message of Buddha but only an Oriental philosophical curio to be comparatively studied with theological trends in other countries. That the world has thereby missed the deep voice and the heart yearnings of a great humanist with all their fervid appeal, is no doubt true; but the greatest misfortune has been that even the traditional followers of the Buddha in India and in Asia are getting unmoved from their age-old religious anchorage and are ceasing to cultivate the internal spirit-realisation through outpouring devotion and feeling prayer.

If Buddhism has to be animated again with life and vigour, concludes the writer, it has to be endowed with the same old deep feeling and spirit of devotion which it originally possessed, but which have been overlooked, unappreciated and discarded by the intellectuals of the modern age.

RACIAL SUPERIORITY: A MYTH

Dr. Benoy Kumar Sarkar does not believe in the superiority of one race over another. The superior or Brahmin of to-day, he says in *Prabuddha Bharata*, "has very often grown out of, or is blended with, the inferior or *pariah* biological stocks of yesterday." And this, he adds,

enables me to state that the unknown, the lower, the inferior, the depressed and the *pariah* of to-day is tending to grow into the renowned, the higher, the superior, the Brahmin of to-morrow.

In other words, the world is being considerably created and conquered all the time by the *pariah*. It is to the *pariah*, therefore, that the future of mankind belongs in a substantial measure and this not only from the standpoint of culture, i.e., social values, but also from that of flesh and blood."

As I am talking so emphatically of the creative role of the *pariah* in the societies of the world, there is every danger of my being misunderstood. People might suspect that perhaps I wish that *pariahdom* should be nursed by the society.

Let me, therefore, declare in so many words that the social condition of the *pariah*, the inferior race, caste, community or class is not an enviable one whether in East or West. We may recall the status of the Roman Catholics in Great Britain down to 1829 and that of the Jews in Russia, Central Europe and U. S. A. down to our own times.

The Indian *pariah* is, of course, a byword—and a world notorious byword. He continues:

The war against *pariahdom* of all varieties and degrees both in East and West, in other words, the war against ethnocentrism or Brahmanocracy in science and politics as well as culture is one of the first desiderata of a new world-planning in my sentiments as well as scientific researches.

The abolition of all sorts of race prejudices, social privileges and inequalities based on ethnic considerations, and distinctions between occidental and oriental peoples on the one hand, and the establishment of race-equality in interhuman or social relations on the other, are two of the fundamental planks to my scheme for national and international reconstruction.

PAKISTAN & THE FUTURE OF INDIA

A regrouping of territories for considerations of administrative convenience, economic advantage or racial or linguistic or geographical homogeneity may be desirable. But what is called Pakistan, with its sinister implications and ever widening scope may well disturb the equanimity of all Indians who look forward to the emergence of a strong, united and self-governing India. Although Pakistan may be a mere pawn in the game of political settlement, says the Hon'ble Sir Chhotu Ram in the *Hindustan Review* for May, the serious misgivings and doubts which the scheme has already generated and which its further developments are likely to multiply and accentuate will do incalculable harm all round.

The immediate effects of Pakistan will be:

1. A worsening of the communal situation as a result of growing mutual distrust and bitterness, a dissipation of valuable energy in arranging propaganda of mutual recrimination and communal demonstrations on either side;
2. A misunderstanding of Britain's motives and distrust of British good faith both by Hindus and Muslims in consequence of the natural and easily intelligible reluctance of British statesmen to make any categorical and absolutely unambiguous statement on all the aspects of Pakistan; and
3. Impairment, due to 1 and 2, both in the quality and volume of India's war effort.

Hence, Sir Chhotu Ram pleads that those who believe in communal peace and good-will as well as in a successful and vigorous prosecution of the war should set their faces against the scheme.

The assumptions on which the scheme is based cannot stand examination. Difference in religious belief is no bar to the growth of common nationhood. Japan and China present excellent examples of common nationhood in spite of the differing religious beliefs of their peoples. Nor does identity of religious faith imply or ordinarily lead to common nationhood, or supply a reliable basis for peace and mutual goodwill. Turks, Iranians and Afghans constitute different nations, although they all profess Islam. Russia, Germany, Great

Britain and France, although all followers of Christ, are separate nations and have not set a very good example of friendship or harmony. On the other hand, although India may not have succeeded so far in developing a sufficiently keen and strong sense of common nationhood effectively to preclude communal leaders from launching their attacks on her solidarity, it can reasonably be claimed that India is a single nation and can, in the course of time, develop a measure of solidarity which will be proof against such attacks.

The best solution of the problem, according to Sir Chhotu Ram, is the introduction of joint electorates and the formation of non-communal parties based on common economic interests both inside and outside legislatures.

This will divert communalism of the main force of its appeal and will strengthen in men's minds the natural process of thinking in the political sphere in terms of their secular interests rather than of their community.

WHEN PEACE COMES

Peace is a pleasant thought when war is on. "Junis" asks in the journalist: Will post-war reconstruction adjust matters in such a way that there will be no minorities or tiny states, which will be the hotbeds of contention? Why not peace be made on a redistribution of the world on a basis of confederation?

Will life become easy when peace comes? We should certainly hope for such a world.

If peace comes soon, the destruction of all that is cherished and treasured will be spared. Peace will enable the victor and the vanquished to see their bloodstains in clearer vision. World is assured of victory to those who are fighting on a moral stand. As an Indian, the feeling is irrepressible that if India had been properly trained in modern warfare, no European would dare touch Britain. This is also the opinion of Mahatma Gandhi and many other leaders. When peace comes, India is bound to look to this aspect of her individuality.

When peace comes, India may have a larger number of internationals settled down.

The conditions of life, even in a slow moving country like India, are bound to change. The world is a smaller unit today than it was in 1918, because of the rapid means of communication and exchange of ideas.

SHORT MEN VS. TALL

"It is an indisputable fact that short men develop more ambition than the taller one. As a result we more often see short men among great business executives and political chiefs than tall men. The short man wishes to compensate for his undersized stature and comes out on top, thanks to greater ambition and will power," writes a British magazine.

Psychoanalysts like Dr. Jung are of the same view. There are many typical cases to illustrate the point in contemporary history. In France, Pierre Flandin, the tallest politician, has had to give way several times to Pierre Laval who is short. The pushing Laval wants to become eventually the French Fuehrer. Nazism's Fuehrer and Italy's Mussolini are short men. In Spain, leadership has been secured by another short man, General Franco, whose ambition turned him from a colonial soldier into a dictator. Switzerland has had three presidents in succession during the last few years, each just above five feet.

A similar tendency is noticeable among nations. A short race, the Japanese, is trying to secure by force the domination of the Far East. In the West, the tall Norwegians are reduced to slavery.

Among the short men who have become giants of history are Julius Caesar (5 ft. 2 in.), Napoleon Bonaparte (5 ft. 1 in.), Alexander the Great (5 ft. 8 in.), Lenin (4 ft. 11 in.) and Sun-yat-Sen (5 ft.).

What of women? Glamour girls are mostly tall and slim, but the \$20,000-a-year Hollywood film stars are mostly very short women. Merle Oberon, Vivien Leigh, Annabella, Janet Gaynor, Joan Bennet and Sonja Henie and many others are in the five-foot class.

WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

Under this caption, Dr. Satis Chandra Chatterjee of the Calcutta University contributes an article to the May number of the *Vedanta Kesari*. Dr. Chatterjee says that philosophy is not mysticism although it may have its basis in the mystical experience. He continues:

"It is an intellectual effort to interpret and understand the universe in the light of our intuitive or mystical experience of reality. Although men as spiritual beings may, in one way or other, be in communion with the super-sensuous reality, yet they are not strictly speaking all philosophers or metaphysicians. Philosophers are men who have the experience of the super-sensuous and make an intellectual attempt to rationalize it so as to enable us to understand the world of ordinary experience and solve the ultimate problems of our life. Philosophy is thus the rationalization of our experiences of super-sensuous reality or the intellectual effort to understand the world in the light of those experiences. To rationalize our experiences of reality is, however, not to prove them by the help of sense-experience or scientific knowledge. Rather it is to justify them by a criticism of the knowledge given by the senses and the sciences to show its inadequacy. Philosophy may, therefore, be defined also as the criticism of sense-experience and scientific knowledge to justify our knowledge of super-sensuous reality."

Philosophy as a universal science combines the results of the special sciences, reconciles their contradictions and gives us a general view of the world as a whole.

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS * DEPARTMENTAL * NOTES

Questions of Importance

THE NEW WORLD ORDER

There has been considerable discussion in the British and Dominion press over what is called the new world order, which is to be established at the end of the war. The *Indian Social Reformer* points out that the declarations of British statesmen making the reconstruction of Europe on a democratic basis the chief war aim, an excellent thing in itself, could create no enthusiasm outside Europe unless integrated with a definite undertaking that colour bars and racial barriers will be eliminated from the new order. "Insistence on this becomes all the more necessary when among the apostles of the new order are General Smuts and Mr. Menzies of Australia. The treatment of Indians and the large coloured population of South Africa is not far removed from the Nazi persecution of Jews. When General Smuts speaks of world freedom and civilization, we are impelled to ask what is the world he has in mind. Asiatics are debarred from acquiring civil rights in Australia which has vast empty spaces crying for population. Would the end of the war see this land open to all races, or is Australia fighting only to maintain its exclusive White policy? Then, again, the United States has made membership of the Aryan race the test of admission of immigrants to its citizenship. This was done long before Herr Hitler made Aryanism the basis of Nazism. Would the United States maintain the Aryan test in the New World Order? If the Dominions and America intend to stick to their colour

and race bars, there is no common ground on which they and Indians can co-operate in building it up. The supreme question for us is not the re-establishment of democracy in Europe, but the removal of the race and colour bars which constitute a perpetual source of irritation and humiliation to Asiatics and to Indians as an important class of Asiatics. The dire calamities which are afflicting Europe are the direct nemesis for the calamities which Europe has inflicted on weak and helpless races in the course of their exploitation and, not until Europe repents and resolves to make atonement, will she be able to save herself from continued miseries. The moment Europe realises this and turns over a new leaf, that moment her relief will come and the way be shown to her to a new and happy world order."

GANDHIJI ON COMMUNAL RIOTS

In the course of a lengthy statement on the communal riots, Gandhiji gives some illustrations of what a Congressman should do in the given circumstances:

"Supposing there is a Hindu procession which has a right to pass through a Muslim locality and a Congressman has no influence over either, he will still give his life in begging a passage from the opposing Muslims."

The immediate result may be zero. But the Congressman will have left a legacy of non-violent bravery. It will be good practice in non-violence. Let us learn from the British people the art of recklessly losing life and property. The same rule applies to a Muslim procession passing through a Hindu locality. He shall never learn the art of mutual forbearance and toleration till some of us, though perfectly innocent, have staggered Indian humanity by losing our lives."

MR. AMERY'S TALK TO BEVIN BOYS

Addressing the Indian technicians at work in a Government training centre, in England, Mr. Amery said:

"If India is to play her part worthily in this war, it is not enough that she should find, as she is doing, hundreds of thousands of splendid and willing recruits. She must also make weapons without which they cannot overcome their enemies. That is the greatest task upon which India is entering today, and for the fulfilment of the task she needs more trained skilled technical workers. That is part of India's battle you are undertaking both by what you can learn here and by what you can teach others when you return to India. You have come to serve your country in the present struggle. Thus you will also serve her hereafter. . . . This country is the original home of trade unionism and it is here that industrial organisation on the part of the working man has reached the fullest development. . . .

Your long journey and your stay here may also teach you something you may not have expected to learn mainly about India. You come from different parts of India, belong to different communities and while at home, you may have thought little about India as a whole. During your voyage here and still more among a different people, you may have become more conscious of the fact underlying your minor differences, that you are Indians and belong to India.

That is something you should feel proud of, proud of India's wonderful past and of the greater future that is in store for her, eager to do credit to India while you are here and do something for India when you return."

**SIR C. P. ON THE VITALITY OF
HINDUISM**

Speaking on the occasion of the opening of the new buildings of the Arya Samaj in Madras, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Dewan of Travancore, observed:

"The ideals and teachings of the Arya Samaj were as old as the hills. The main tenet of Arya Samaj was an endeavour to go back to the sources and foundations of the Hindu faith—the Vedas and the Upanishads. Any one who for a moment looked into and analysed the progress of the Hindu faith from the earliest times would see that it moved from simplicity to complexity and then back to simplicity in a spiral process. There were revolvers like Buddha and Jaina but imperceptibly, slowly and surely Hinduism absorbed and assimilated their teachings so much so that Buddhism and Jainism were to-day but variants of Hinduism. Sankara, Ramanuja, Kabir, Chaitanya and Ramakrishna Paramahansa, all taught a new way of life adapted to the particular level of intellect and stage of emotional and spiritual growth of different people. Each of them different from his predecessors was engaged in the unending process of fitting Hinduism for its immediate tasks which history occasioned or circumstances called for. An incurable optimist that he was, he had no fears for the future of Hinduism and Hindu culture. There must be something vital and some great inward strength in Hinduism which made it survive thousands of years after faiths, no less noble in outlook or exalted in ideals, had perished without leaving a trace. That inward strength and vitality of Hinduism lay in the strength of its catholicism and vigour of its thought and emotion."

MR. MUNSHI ON BRITISH POLICY

In a statement to the Press, Mr. K. M. Munshi points out that during the last few days a new situation fraught with tragic possibilities is developing for India. Unless all the signs point wrongly, the war will soon be waged on the frontiers of India.

"We Congressmen—the natural allies of Britain, if the war is for democracy—went into wilderness after our offer to fight the war if India were granted a National Government, was turned down. No self-respecting national organisation can do less. About 20,000 of us are in jail. Every arrest means increasing estrangement between Britain and India. It is easy to belittle the movement but it brings out in sharp relief the fact that India does not consider the war as hers.

In a letter purporting to be from a Muslim in Europe to a Muslim Leaguer published in some newspapers, India is sought to be divided thus: Bombay and Madras to go to Italy; Burma, Bengal and Bihar to Japan; United and Central Provinces to be mandated; and a new country to be brought into existence stretching from Turkey to United Provinces.

An English journal recently testified to pro-Japanese feeling in Burma and all sections of Indian opinion are anti-Japanese. The bitterness that has come over the Liberals was voiced by the mildest of them, Sir Cowasji, when he said that their lot was to subscribe to the war fund and knit stockings. Even the ex-members of the Viceroy's Council, who have stood outside politics, have displayed their dissatisfaction in no uncertain terms.

A sense of frustration has seized the Indian mind. Is this a healthy state of mind when a supreme effort is required to meet the new crisis? Britain has lost a great opportunity."

SAPRU COMMITTEE & MR. JINNAH

In a statement to the Press, the Standing Committee of the Bombay Conference refutes Mr. Jinnah's allegation that the decisions of the Conference were in any way influenced by any outsider. Criticising Mr. Jinnah's negative attitude, it points out that he is out merely to destroy the unity of the country.

Mr. Jinnah has now come out in his true colours. No scheme of Government will satisfy him even for the period of war unless it is in furtherance of the disruption of India.

The Committee would ask all right-minded men to consider whether in view of Mr. Jinnah's latest pronouncement, any negotiation with him is possible except on the basis of destroying the unity of the country.

GANDHIJI ON DISARMAMENT

Replying to the *Times of India*, Gandhiji points out that there is in fact no discrepancy in his insistence on non-violence while protesting against keeping the people wholly unarmed.

In 1908, when I first expounded the life-saving and the life-giving truth of Ahimsa, I wrote that disarmament was the blackest page in British history in India. I repeated the same thing in 1918, when I was collecting recruits for the British Army with a zeal that brought me serious illness and a fair measure of unpopularity. My statement passed muster then. But times have changed, and I have become inconsistent for stating an unchallengeable fact. I suggest that non-violence cannot be imposed upon any one. It has to come from within. The British measure was undertaken to make British rule safe, not to make the people non-violent. It has made them impotent even for mischief. Good, impotent persons can never do. It is no matter for pride or credit that one representative of the British power can hold in abject subjection, say, a village of 1,000 souls.

My non-violence does admit of people, who cannot or will not be non-violent, holding and making effective use of arms. Let me repeat, for the thousandth time, that non-violence is of the strongest sort of the weak. It is a force mightier than violence, though radically different from it in quality and effect.

THE ANNAMALAI UNIVERSITY

A special meeting of the Senate of the Annamalai University was held on May 5, Sir K. V. Reddy Naidu, Vice-Chancellor, presiding. The Finances Reorganisation Committee had recommended drastic cuts in staff and curriculum. These, approved by the Syndicate and the Academic Council, were put before the Senate which accepted them by a majority of votes.

Mr. Papworth, however, moved a resolution requesting the house that action on the recommendations of the Finances Reorganisation Committee relating to (a) courses of study, and (b) the staff, be deferred pending an immediate investigation.

He protested against what he described as "morally questionable methods" "involving dismissal of members of the staff and cutting down scales of salaries regardless of our contracts with and our obligations towards them".

"In asking for an investigation into the whole matter, Mr. Papworth expressed his own opinion that the Constitution of the University is not suitable to a unitary University.

"This University is one College, and I maintain it should be run as such; it should function like the Presidency College or the Christian College; for it is smaller in numbers and courses of study than both these big colleges, but with just that extra statutory provision giving it the status of a University with power to confer its own degrees. A unitary University requires no more than that. It does not require an elaborate constitution of a Senate and an Academic Council and a Syndicate. No single College requires this; indeed such a constitution is detrimental to a University consisting of a single college."

Mr. Papworth's motion was, however, lost and the University has now decided not to offer instruction in the following subjects for the courses of study commencing from 1941-42: 1. Philosophy Part III Pass and Honours Degree Examinations; 2. Sanskrit for Honours Degree Examination; 3. Botany for Pass and Honours; and 4. Zoology for Pass Degree Examinations.

SIR MAURICE ON STUDENTS AND POLITICS

"The hall-mark of university education ought to be a sense of proportion and a sense of values," observed Sir Maurice Gwyer, Chief Justice of India, addressing the Convocation of the Delhi University on May 6.

"In the University of Delhi, he added, "it ought to be easier to achieve these two things than in many other places; for, this University is situate in a city with a very great history, in a city which is now the capital of India, and in a city where for good or ill policies will always be discussed, plans made and decisions taken profoundly affecting the lives and interests of millions of mankind."

Continuing, Sir Maurice said:

"I cannot conceive a student in any capital city taking no interest in the politics of his country; for he lives in the very centre of politics, and I should be sorry, indeed, to think that any aspect of Indian politics failed to arouse the interest of the students of this University. I hope that they will always study them and take the keenest interest in them, whether as an intellectual pursuit or with an ardent desire to play a part later on the public life of their country."

LAHORE HIGH COURT'S RULING

"Mere sending of a letter to the District Magistrate intimating that one intends to shout anti-war slogans does not constitute an offence punishable under Rule 121 of the Defence of India Rules."

This ruling was given by Mr. Justice Bhide at the Lahore High Court, on May 6, on a point of law raised by the Bar Association through an *amicus curiae* application in the cases of three Satyagrahis.

Accepting the petitions, His Lordship acquitted all the three accused including Lala Chandit Ram Varma, President of the Ferozepur Congress Committee, who had been sentenced to 15 months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500.

The other two Satyagrahis were Lala Fatehchand, a Municipal Commissioner of Multan, who had been sentenced to nine months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2,000 and Mr. Mukandlal, a Congress worker of Hoshiarpur, who had been sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 400.

His Lordship, in the course of his judgment, observed: "It is a well established canon of interpretation of statutes that a penal provision of law must be strictly construed and that no act should be penalised unless it clearly falls within the ambit of the penal provision."

In the present case after carefully considering the language of Rule 121 and other points referred to above, I have come to the conclusion that the mere sending of a letter to the District Magistrate intimating that the accused intended to shout anti-war slogans did not constitute an offence punishable under that rule."

It would appear that the Punjab Government, acting on this decision, is releasing a number of such prisoners.

THE LATE Mr. T. JIVAJI ROW

We regret to record the death of Mr. T. Jivaji Row, retired Sub-Judge at Coimbatore, on 17th May. The late Mr. Jivaji Row was the son of the late Rao Bahadur T. Gopala Row, the South Indian educationist.

Mr. Jivaji Row, before joining the Provincial Judicial Service, worked as a junior under the late Sir V. Bhashyam Iyengar. He also acted as District and Sessions Judge for about two years before he retired. He was aged 75 and leaves behind him his wife and only son.

A WOMAN ADVOCATE

On May 1, before the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Mockett, Mr. J. S. Vedamanikkam moved for the enrolment of Miss Lily Jesudasan as an Advocate of the Madras High Court. He said that she was the daughter of the late Mr. A. Jesudasan, who was a leading advocate in Trichinopoly. She was the first lady of the Indian Christian community to pass out of the Madras Law College, and she proposed to set up practice at Trichinopoly. Their Lordships directed her enrolment.

TWO NEW MADRAS JUDGES

The Governor-General has appointed Diwan Bahadur C. Kunhiraman, Chief Judge, Court of Small Causes, Madras, and Mr. N. Chandrasekhara Ayyar, District Judge, Madras, to be additional judges of the Madras High Court for two years with effect from July 16, 1941.

SUBASH BOSE'S PROPERTIES

An order to attach the immoveable properties of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose was passed recently by the Additional Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, in connexion with the case pending against him under the Defence of India Rules.

WAR RISK INSURANCE

The Government of India have now decided not to allow war risk insurance policies to be taken out with retrospective effect even in cases of under-insurance, according to instructions given by the Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Commerce to the Accountants-Generals of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras on the subject of the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance of 1940.

Explaining the decision, the Under-Secretary states that even where a policy has been taken out for an amount less than the estimated value of goods held in stock, Government are not willing, on the balance of premium being subsequently tendered, to issue cover retrospectively with regard to the excess of stocks.

He adds that such cases of under-insurance which come to the notice of the staff in the course of local checking, should be reported to the special officers concerned.

THE LATE SIR DARCY LINDSAY

Sir Darcy Landsay, formerly Director of the Calcutta Branch of the Royal Insurance Company, died at Shillong last month.

Sir Darcy was born in Duns, Scotland, in 1865 and came out to India very early on business. He was connected with the Royal Insurance Company in India for 32 years, first as Secretary of the Bombay Branch and then as Secretary of the Calcutta Branch. He was appointed a Director in 1929. Sir Darcy was a member of the Central Legislative Assembly from 1921 to 1931 and was the leader of the European Party there. He was a familiar figure in business and social circles in Calcutta.

INSURANCE PAYMENTS IN U. S. A.

According to an estimate by the travelers, more than three and a half billions of dollars were paid to the public last year by American insurance companies.

Payments under life insurance policies amounted to more than \$2,700,000,000 which is approximately 75 per cent of the total, viz., \$3,615,000,000. Disbursements under various forms of insurance applying to persons as compared with forms applying to property amounted to 82 per cent of the total.

Payments under fire insurance policies amounted to approximately \$400,000,000 and under automobile policies \$175,000,000.

A NEW INDIAN INSURER

The opening ceremony of the Hindu Insurance Co., Ltd., a company which has been floated after the dissolution of the Punjab Mutual Hindu Family Relief Fund, was performed in the office of the Company at 18, Chamberlain Road, Lahore, on Sunday the 18th April.

Mr. Bhagat Gobind Das, Chairman of the Company, described briefly the objects and aims of this new Company. The guests were treated to light refreshments.

AMERICAN MARINE INSURANCE

Despite the loss of practically all insurances on European commerce, a substantial increase is anticipated in the 1940 premium income of American marine insurance. This increase is attributed partially to the higher premium rates and partially to new business for instance from the Dutch East Indies and South American countries. It is expected that business will continue to increase unless the United States and Japan go to war.

INDO-AUSTRALIAN TRADE

Australia is very keen on improving trade with this country, says *Capital*, and the Sydney Chamber of Commerce has been making efforts to form an "Export Development Group". The Government of India, too, has not been insensible to the potentialities of the Australian market, in recognition whereof an Indian Trade Commissioner was appointed. The Sydney Chamber has addressed commercial bodies in India and Ceylon on the subject and state *inter alia*:

"We would greatly appreciate your assistance in bringing the formation and objects of this Group before the commercial community in your territory.

Owing to defence requirements, the export at present of metals and metal manufacture is difficult, but there are many other items your country may require on which there are no restrictions. Whatever the inquiry is for, you may be sure that it will receive efficient attention, the inquirer will be either placed in touch with a supplier or correctly advised of the position regarding the goods required.

In future, it may again be necessary for us to call upon your services for assistance on matters relative to your territory and we feel sure that we can rely on your co-operation while we, in turn, are entirely at the service of your organisation and its members."

INDIAN DEFENCE LOANS

A Press *communiqué* says: Subscriptions to the Second Defence Loan from 1st February to 8th May amounted to Rs. 5,22,92,800; to Interest-free Defence Bonds 2,36,72,000; Post Office Ten-Year Cash Certificates Rs. 2,64,12,000. Grand total of subscriptions to all Indian Defence Loans Rs. 55,09,49,000.

BURMA CUSTOMS TARIFF

About 77 articles specified in the Burma Customs Tariff are on the Burma free list, while in respect of 179 articles, Burma concedes preference to goods of Indian origin of not less than 10 per cent. compared with Empire products and not less than 15 per cent. compared with non-Empire goods according to the *Burma Gazette Extraordinary*.

The chief among the free list are coal, raw cotton, cotton twist and yarn, gunny bags, pig iron and certain classes of machinery. The chief among goods which become dutiable at 10 per cent. for the first time are certain types of cotton fabrics, raw silk, jute, cement, ghee, molasses, condensed milk, aluminium and vegetables.

Indian tea now becomes subject to a duty of two annas per pound while Colonial tea to three annas. Indian chemicals are now dutiable at 5 per cent. which represents a margin of preference of 15 per cent. of Empire chemicals. Sugar is taxable at Rs. 8 per hundred-weight, while the duty on salt, matches and silver bullion will be equal to the excise duty.

INDO-MALAYAN TRADE

The Indo-Malayan trade of 1989 showed a marked increase over 1988, the increase being about 7 million dollars. Exports from Malaya exceeded the imports from India by 8½ million dollars, giving a favourable balance of trade for Malaya. With the restriction of trade with many European centres, there appears to be scope for increasing the volume of Indo-Malayan trade.

WOMEN'S WORK IN WAR TIME

"The women in this country have made an overwhelming response to the appeals made to them and have shown themselves worthy in every respect to share the front line with their husbands and brothers," writes the Dowager Lady Reading in a personal letter from London to Bai Bahadur Radha Krishna Jalan, a prominent citizen of Patna.

She adds: "British women work during the day and care for their families, shelters neighbours and friends during the nights of raids and they seem to be able to carry on unperturbed and untired. They face difficulties of cooking and domestic arrangements in their own homes and are an example to the world."

The former Vicereine is now the Chairman of the Women's Volunteer Services for Civil Defence, and in her letter she describes at length the work of that organization.

"The scope of our work," says Lady Reading, "has extended steadily and from dealing only with A.R.P. matters, ambulance personnel and first-aid post workers, we have now been asked by the local Government authorities throughout the country for whom we work to help them with all problems they have to face which need a woman's attention. This covers evacuation, salvage-work parties, clothing depots and distribution, the care of homeless people, canteen work and an endless variety of activities."

CRETAN WOMEN FIGHT NAZIS

When Italy invaded Greece, Cretan hill-women of the Lassithi plain petitioned the King of Hellenes to be allowed to form a Women's Regiment to fight for Greece. Their desire is now granted, and armed, stalwart Cretan women, famed for their beauty, now mount guard over their homes and stalk Nazi parachutists.

WOMEN AND COMMUNAL PROBLEM

Presiding over a meeting of the women of Trichur held under the auspices of the Mahila Samajam, Mrs. Ammu Swaminathan held that women are particularly fitted to play an important part in the settlement of communal questions. She observed:

"I believe that women as a whole, who are the least actuated by communal feelings and considerations in their lives are much better fitted than men to find a quick and easy solution to the communal problem of India.

If the women of India had enough political consciousness to realise their influence in this respect, I could have easily predicted that the future generations of Indians would not fight among themselves and risk the cause of the nation on this communal issue. I earnestly and confidently hope that the women of Kerala who are freer and more literate than women of other parts of India, especially from a social and economic point of view, will feel their responsibilities towards the nation and towards their less fortunate sisters and devote their attention to do away with communalism, an unholy issue on which *Swaraj* their birthright is said to depend."

MRS. ROOSEVELT'S APPEAL

Mrs. Roosevelt, broadcasting under the auspices of the Committee to defend America by aiding the Allies, declared:

"Americans must make themselves worthy to offer the world the example that democracy has vitality, democracy has strength, and, above all, that the people who believe in democracy have the courage to fight and die if need be, and above all, to live for their convictions at all times."

EXPANDED ENGLISH

In an article on "English—All Dressed up", the organ of the Head Masters of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has some pleasant examples of how to make a little English go a long way when done up in the best official manner:

1. "More precipitation, less acceleration,"—more haste, less speed.
2. "Proceed to the due performance of your prescribed task,"—Go to it.
3. "You are enjoined not to disseminate reports of indeterminate provenance which have insufficient bases of authenticity and which by repetition tend to acquire cumulative inexactitude,"—Don't spread rumours.

ITIHAS PARISHAD

The Council and the Editorial Board of the Bharatiya Itihas Parishad, which met at Calcutta on April 18 and 14, have, it is understood, decided finally to start work on the national history of India in twenty volumes. Editors have been appointed for six volumes which are to be taken in hand immediately.

Sir Jadunath Sarkar, the Chief Editor, has himself taken up the volume on the Age of Akbar.

CHINA'S GIFT TO TIRUPATI INSTITUTE

On the recommendation of Prof. Tan Yun-Shan of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, President of the Chinese Republic, has made a munificent gift of the Shanghai edition of the Chinese Tripitaka consisting of 8,416 fascicles to the Sri Venkatesvara Oriental Institute, Tirupati, and the books have been transmitted to the Institute by the Professor.

BRITAIN'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER

Britain's oldest surviving newspaper, *Berrow's Worcester Journal*, recently celebrated its 250th anniversary. It was founded in 1690. It has received congratulatory messages from Lord Camrose, Major the Hon. J. J. Astor, Lord Beaverbrook, Lord Rothermere, Lord Kemsley, Lord Southwood, Sir Emsley Carr and Sir Ernest Benn, and from many distinguished journalists in England and overseas.

DR. SAPRU ON MR. JINNAH

"This is the spirit of an angry man who has too long played the part of a dictator but who realises that the challenge to his authority is daily growing and that the chances of his favourite theories and schemes being accepted by others, including the British, are being imperilled every day." So observes the Rt. Hon. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru in a long reply to the statement by Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President of the All-India Muslim League, who criticised the Bombay Conference resolution.

After pointing out that the story of the conspiracy with Mr. C. Rajagopalachari in drafting the Bombay resolution was a pure myth, Dr. Sapru says:

"It is most unbecoming conduct on the part of a public man—more so in the case of the leader of an organisation—to rely upon rumours, and on the basis of those rumours to characterise the statement of the Standing Committee as 'crooked and tortuous' and in certain parts perversion of truth. He has tried to cover up the weakness of his position by the bitterness of his phraseology, but it is not difficult to see that his mind is excited, his pride wounded, and that he is suffering from a dearth of rational arguments."

RAMU MEMORIAL

The Ramu Memorial Hall—a hall in the Ramakrishna Mission High School, Thyagarayanagar named after the late Mr. C. Ramaswami Ayyangar, Founder-Secretary of the Ramakrishna Mission Home School, Mylapore,—was opened on May 5 by Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar in the school premises at Thyagarayanagar. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar unveiled a portrait of the late Mr. Ramaswami Ayyangar, and the Rt Hon. V. S. Srinivasan Sastriar a portrait of Mr S. Vasudevachariar, the present manager of the school.

ROOSEVELT'S POPULARITY

President Roosevelt's popularity in the United States has reached its highest level, according to results shown by the latest nation-wide Gallup Poll. Seventy-three per cent. of the voters expressed full confidence in the President, while only 27 per cent. disapproved.

NEW CURE FOR DYSENTERY

Sulfathiazole, a baby member of the amazing sulfanilamide family, is bidding strongly for recognition as the long-sought effective weapon against dysentery bacilli, a rugged pest equally at home in nursery or army camp.

At an Atlanta hospital for children, physicians have watched the drug score repeated, spectacular victories over acute dysentery in children, one to three years old.

The hospital staff is unwilling yet to say positively that thiazole is the long-needed curative agent for this ancient ill, but it definitely is encouraged.

FREE BED FOR CEYLON PATIENTS

His Excellency Sir Andrew Caldecott's recent visit to Madras for treatment in the Madras Radiological Institute has led to a free bed being endowed in that institute for deserving Ceylon patients. This was revealed to the Colombo press by Dr. P. Rama Rau, the Director of the Institute when he was there recently on a week's holiday.

He said that as His Excellency insisted on paying his fee and as Dr. Rama Rau was unwilling to accept it from the King's representative in Ceylon, he hit upon the idea of endowing a bed to be named after Sir Andrew Caldecott, to which His Excellency agreed.

AYURVEDIC MEDICINE

In order to popularize and encourage the Ayurvedic system of medicine, the Nizam has sanctioned the scheme which involves a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 48,000 and an annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 85,000. An Advisory Committee with the Secretary, Army and Medical Departments as chairman and seven others as members has been set up.

CURE FOR DRUNKENNESS

A cure for drunkenness has been invented by Drs. Walter Lyle Voegtlin and Frederick Lemere of Seattle, U. S. Four to seven times a week a patient is given first a drink of good liquor, then an injection of a nauseating drug until he develops a conditioned aversion to liquor. Number of total abstainers for four years of this treatment, they claim, is over 850.

DIET OF SOUTH INDIANS

No time should be lost in improving the diet of South Indians. Stressing this point, *Health* writes editorially:

"It was reported to the Government of India that the average duration of life in India was about half what it ought to be and that the increasing prevalence of tuberculosis and other diseases, which are associated with malnutrition, suggested that the conditions of life of the people were steadily deteriorating.

The diet of a South Indian is much inferior to that of a North Indian, and so some of the diseases mentioned above cause great havoc in this part of the country. Rice, the staple article of diet in South India, is deficient in proteins and fats which are the main muscle-building factors. The people of North India take whole wheat, plenty of dhal, large quantities of milk and ghee which are all good body builders.

The milled rice that we use has lost even the little nutritional properties that it contained. So we should include in our diet plenty of dhal, a good supply of milk and its products such as butter, curd, ghee, etc., liberal quantities of vegetables and fruits. The quantity of rice should be reduced in the diet and sweets should be used sparingly.

CURE BY WALKING

According to Dr. Thomas R. Thorburn of New York, walking in sand relieves fallen arches, arthritis, and rheumatism of the feet. For those who are not fortunate enough to live near the seashore, he advises a few minutes walk in a trough filled with sand in their bed room.

STARCHY FOODS

Take starchy foods sparingly such as potatoes, bread, rice, porridge, puddings, pastry, cakes and rich biscuits, because they require a double process of digestion; they must be converted firstly into dextrine and then into grape sugar. Of all foods, they require the most thorough and most complete mastication whereas they usually receive the least.

INDO-CHINA BANK ASSETS IN INDIA

Explaining the position created by Indo-China's ban on remittances to India, the Government of India state:

"The Bank of Indo-China is an enemy within the meaning of Rule 97 of the Defence of India Rules and its assets in India being enemy property vest in the custodian of enemy property. As a retaliatory measure against the freezing of the bank's assets in India, the authorities in Indo-China have forbidden remittances by British Indians from that country to India.

The Government of India have of course no objection to remittances being made to India in any manner that may be permitted by the authorities in Indo-China and have even agreed to pay small drafts for family maintenance drawn on the Pondicherry branch of the bank of Indo-China, thus reducing the assets of the Bank which have been frozen in India. There is, however, definite information that the office of Exchange in Indo-China, which is virtually the bank of Indo-China, will not permit any bank to issue drafts in respect of any remittances. Efforts are being made to have this ban removed as soon as possible.

NEW 3 P. C. LOAN

The Nizam's Government has notified the issue of a new three per cent. loan, the principal and interest of which are secured on the revenues and assets of the Government, says a press note.

The loan will be repayable at par on 8th August 1961, but the Government have reserved to themselves the right to repay the loan on or after the 8th August 1951.

The issue price will be Rs. 99.8 for every Rs 100. Subscriptions will be received from 7th July 1941 to 6th August 1941 in the form of cash or the 6 per cent. loan 1952 Fasli, the 6 per cent. loan 1951/61 Fasli, or the 5 per cent. loan 1952/62 Fasli.

Subscriptions will be received in the currency of the State, but for the convenience of the public, British Government rupees will be accepted at a specified rate.

RAILWAY AMENITIES

With a view to greater uniformity among the amenities provided by the Indian railways for the travelling public and in order to improve the standard of comfort of lower class passengers generally, the Railway Board have laid down a schedule of minimum requirements which are to be provided in future. The Board have also adopted as standard four types of coaches which comply with these requirements. The railways owned by the Indian States have also been asked to adopt these standards.

The new designs for standard-pattern coaches have one main feature in common—they are all of the six-compartment type. This means that each coach is divided off into six separate compartments, each with a carrying capacity of not more than 20 passengers.

RAILWAY INSPECTORATE

In pursuance of the recommendation of the Pacific Locomotive Committee and of the views expressed in the Legislature, the Railway Inspectorate has been separated from the Railways Cadre with effect from May 12, 1941.

The Inspectorate will be independent of the Railway Board and of any Railway Administration. There will be five circles of inspection, each in charge of a Government Inspector of Railways, who will be subordinate to the Chief Government Inspector of Railways.

RAILWAY BAN ON BEGGING

By an amendment of the general rules for all open lines of Railways in British India, it is announced that except under and in conformity with the terms and provisions of a licence granted by the Railway Administration in this behalf, no person shall canvass for any custom, or hawk or expose for sale any article whatsoever on any train, station platform or premises, and no person, whether in possession of a ticket or not, shall beg or solicit alms, subscriptions or charity.

REFRESHMENT ROOMS AT S. I. R. STATIONS

The South Indian Railway authorities have directed the District Engineers and Managers of the Company-managed Indian Refreshment Rooms to remove the caste-distinction boards from the rooms.

THE INFLUENCE OF AJANTA

"The frescoes in Sigiriya in Ceylon are the culmination of the Ajanta," said Dr. Andreas Nell at the Art Gallery, Colombo.

Throughout Eastern Asia, he added, with the progress and triumph of Buddhism, went Indian art. Race and environment produced regional modifications but did not obscure the symbolism, the types and the imagery derived from Indian art.

Especially wide-spread was the influence of Ajanta. Examples of the influence of Ajanta abound in Eastern Asia, and in Ceylon we have at Sigiriya examples which are of the Ajanta School and are of an excellence which justify the claim that the Sigiriya frescoes are the culmination of the Ajanta.

MUSIC FOR MUSIC'S SAKE

In a recent interview to the *Evening News of India*, Dr. William Lovelock, Professor of the Trinity College of Music, London, expressed himself against the pursuit of music with the sole idea of passing examinations and pleaded for music for music's sake.

Dr. Lovelock rightly stressed a high standard of general cultural education as essential to music. It should be noted that music appreciation is an essential element of cultural education. In India, integration of music in the educational system will enlarge and enrich the cultural scope of general education. It will foster in students genuine appreciation of music for music's sake and will also create an urge in them towards seeking true and human music behind and beyond the modern trends of commercialised and mechanised staff.

CAVE PAINTINGS

Recently mural paintings of 14th to 15th century in the Trithakrapuram Temple in Puttan Chira, North Travancore, and the remnants of some old Jain paintings in a rock-cut temple at Chitala, South Travancore, have been brought to light. India has been slowly regaining the vestiges of her art-treasure, which will greatly facilitate the task of tracing the continuity of her art of painting through the ages.

FIRST INDIAN DERBY

Mr. A. C. Ardeshir will go down in the annals of our Turf history as being the originator and framer of the first Indian Derby which will be run in 1948, writes *The Sporting Times*, Bombay.

The race will be for four-year-olds and the distance will be 1½ miles. The initial stakes will be Rs. 50,000 in all.

Mr. Ardeshir has also suggested the introduction of the other two world-famous classics, the 'Two Thousand Guineas for fillies only, which will also be considered and incorporated in future programmes.

Thus for Indian horses there will be the usual full programme of the classical races prevailing all over the world.

INDIAN CRICKET TEAM FOR CEYLON.

"The best time in 1942 for an India XI to visit this Island of Ceylon would be between the period February 15 to March 15," writes Mr. B. E. R. Cooray, Honorary Secretary of the Ceylon Cricket Association, in the course of a letter to the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India who, it will be remembered, had written to the Ceylon Cricket authorities asking them to indicate when they would like an India XI to visit their island.

WRESTLING IN HYDERABAD

Gama had been invited to umpire the wrestling bouts organized in Hyderabad in aid of the War Purposes Fund. A number of his pupils took part in the wrestling and defeated all the local champions. The champion wrestler, when interviewed, said:

"The standard of wrestling in Hyderabad is poor and until the State Government takes keen interest as the Maharaja of Patiala does to improve the standard, it is impossible to produce world champions."

HOCKEY FOR WAR FUND

An exhibition hockey match in aid of the Governor's War Fund was played on the Madras United Club ground between the Madras Indians and the Madras Anglo-Indians. The Indians won by four goals to one.

MIDGET SUBMARINE

Very different from the many monster submarines of Britain and Germany armed for destruction and manned with a crew of close on a hundred, is the one-man submarine, recently constructed by Barney Connett.

It is only eleven feet long, but with its one-man crew it has made many successful dives in the Hudson River, U. S. A. It once even crossed the thirty-five miles of Lake Michigan, three feet below the surface and rising only once for air.

Connett, who was once a Chicago mechanic, has built his underwater craft made of one-sixteenth-inch steel to resemble a fish.

It is twenty-three inches wide and thirty-seven inches high amidships just enough room to allow the operator to manipulate the controls.

It carries an oxygen supply and a four-foot periscope enables Barney to see what is going on above the water. When he is on the surface, celluloid windows on each side give him light. Submarine experts of the American Navy recently watched this small underwater craft during trials. They made no comment about it, but it is thought that this "midget sub" might be of use for tracking down and hunting bigger and less manœuvrable submarines.

DEVICES AGAINST BOMBING

Canadian and American scientists had played no mean part in developing the devices against night bombing now being used in Britain, according to a statement by the Canadian Air Minister, Mr. Power, in the House of Commons. Over 800 men, mostly from Canada, he said, had crossed the Atlantic to work the devices in November and they were recently followed by hundreds more. Mr. Power added that the United States had supplied from 200 to 400 trained airmen for instruction work under the Empire Training Scheme and the actual number of men who graduated under the scheme recently was almost double of that planned when the agreement on the scheme was made in December, 1939.

SOUTH INDIAN FILMS

Advocating regular exhibition of South Indian films in the North, Mr. N. V. Eswar, in the course of an article in the *Hindusthan Standard*, says:

It thus brings us directly to the question of the language barrier. This to me is a phantom. It is not real. At the outset, it is true that we are capable of appreciating only films produced in our language. To-day we have outlived that stage. India has been inside the cinema-house for the past twenty years so that she can by every cannon be said to have turned film conscious. This consciousness alone is sufficient to make one understand films in other languages.

This fact is simply borne out by South Indian ladies, who are for the most part innocent of any other language, save their own and this in a most rudimentary form patronising films in other languages. They not only understand these films but also enjoy them. I do maintain that if it is possible for South Indians to enjoy films other than their own, the enjoyment of South Indian films by Indians of the North must by every standard of judgment be within the realms of actual reality.

'TIRUVALLUVAR'

Famous Talkies' Tamil picture "Tiruvalluvar" has been released in a few centres in Tamil Nad. Serukalathur Sama, Kulathu Mani, Tinnevely Papa and Kali N. Ratnam are featuring in the play. The story depicts the life of the sage Tiruvalluvar, the famous author of "Kural". With nice songs, superior quality of acting and well set dialogues, the picture should have an abundant support from the cine lovers.

CHAPLIN'S CONFESSION

"My mother didn't like my pictures," says Charlie Chaplin. "She didn't like the violence of comedy. After she had been in Hollywood a little while she became very religious, and she used to say she was sorry I felt called upon to be an actor: leading a false life, she called it, because in pictures I was always pretending to be someone I was not."

AUTOMOBILE FACTORY IN BANGALORE

It is understood that the Mysore Government have decided not to participate in the scheme for the establishment of an automobile industry in the State and that the promoters have been informed that the Government have no desire to proceed with the negotiations.

It will be recalled that the Government of India, while expressing full sympathy with the scheme, said in December last that the starting of this industry would divert skilled workers from ammunition work and they also referred to the difficulty of releasing dollars owing to exchange restrictions.

The starting of an Automobile Factory in Mysore was greatly welcomed by local merchants and the general public and already investors had collected over fifty lakhs towards share capital from Mysore and other States. Sir M. Visvesvaraya, who has received promises from other States aggregating fifty lakhs towards share capital, it is learnt, is writing to them releasing them from their promises.

In this connection the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Tuticorin, has sent the following telegram to the Government of India:—

"This Chamber requests the Central Government and the Madras Government to arrange for the establishment of the automobile industry in Madras Presidency at Mettur or anywhere in Coimbatore District owing to availability of cheap electrical energy and of a sufficient number of investors. This Chamber also requests the Madras Government to take shares in the Aircraft Factory in Bangalore ensuring a field for Madrasis being trained as technicians."

AXIS AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Evidence of German economic penetration in France was given by the Paris Radio in announcing co-operation between France, Germany and Italy regarding the automobile industry.

The agreement signed in Berlin provides for a commission comprising five Germans, five Italians, and five Frenchmen under the presidency of the German automobile industry controller.

The announcer stated that 800,000 French families would be maintained by the industry.

GERMAN PLANES IN ENGLAND

At least 38 German planes were destroyed over Britain on Saturday the 10th of May.

Thirty-one raiders were destroyed by fighters and two by anti-aircraft gunfire. The total number of raiders brought down last month is 124. Assuming that each plane carried a crew of five, the *Luftwaffe* has lost more than 600 trained men.

Among the buildings hit by German bombs were the Houses of Parliament, the Debating Chamber in the House of Commons being wrecked and Big Ben slightly damaged, Westminster Abbey and the British Museum.

AIR MAIL SERVICE TO EUROPE

The Empire air mail service to Africa and Europe has been temporarily interrupted, states a Press communiqué. Until further notice no air mails will be accepted for destinations west of Basra. Air mails already posted will be forwarded to destinations by the most expeditious route available.

A regular air service between India and Australia is being maintained and mails will be accepted for all destinations served by this service as well as for destinations in the Persian Gulf.

FIGHTERS AND BOMBERS

It is announced from London that donations to Britain's Aircraft Fund totalled nearly £18 million by the end of April. Of this money, it is estimated, citizens in the Dominions and the Colonies have given 46 per cent., the people of Britain 85 per cent., India 15 per cent., and the Netherlands Empire most of the remainder.

FLYING FORTRESSES

Major-General H. H. Arnold, Chief of the United States Air Corps, thus spoke of the part American planes are playing in the offensive against Germany. He stated that the famous flying fortresses had already won their spurs.

He added that for every ton of bombs that the Germans drop on Britain, we must be able to drop two tons on them.

INDIAN SHIP-BUILDING

At the first quarterly meeting of the Indian Merchants' Chamber in Bombay, Mr. J. C. Setalvad, Vice-President of the Chamber, severely criticised the Government for its step-motherly attitude towards Indian shipping and lack of encouragement to the starting of the ship-building industry in this country and said: 'It is particularly praiseworthy, therefore, that the Scindias should put up a plant at Vizagapatam for ship-building, and I wish them all success in their undertaking.'

GLASS INDUSTRY

Considerable development of the glass industry is taking place in the United Provinces. For the first time the manufacture of optical glass is being attempted in the U. P. It will be manufactured in a glass factory in a western district of the province.

Artificial pearls and beads, which used to be wholly imported before, are now being manufactured in the U. P. All these developments are due to the Department of Glass Technology started by the U. P. Government.

PAINT MANUFACTURE IN INDIA

At least a dozen paint factories are operating with indigenous raw materials on modern lines in India to-day. These are producing dry colours, paste paints, mixed paints, enamels, varnishes, and oils excluding raw linseed oil—virtually every kind of paint manufacture from cheaper qualities to meet demand of the Indian bazaars to highly specialised qualities for use by railways, shipping and industrial organisations of all descriptions. They can also manufacture paints required for war purposes including anti-vaccant, camouflage, and fire-resisting paints.

PRODUCTION OF POTASSIUM BICHROMATE

To meet the increasing demand for potassium bichromate, which is indispensable in the manufacture of khaki dyes and production of munitions, a plant has been set up in Bombay. It is expected that this factory will be able to provide at least a fourth of the country's requirements.

MARKETING OF POTATOES

The Report on the Marketing of Potatoes in India and Burma (Manager of Publications, Delhi, Re. 1-4), is a further addition to the growing number of very useful reports on the marketing of various agricultural commodities issued by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India. Reports have already been issued on the Marketing of Wheat, Linseed, Eggs, Tobacco, Coffee, Grapes, etc.

The plan of this report is the same as that of others—the successive chapters dealing with supply, utilisation and demand prices, preparation for market, grading and standardisation, assembling, storage, transportation, distribution, seed and disease. At the end is given a note of suggestions and recommendations.

Potatoes are an important growing money crop in India with an acreage of 448,700 acres and an annual output of 49,100,000 maunds with an estimated value of Rs. 9½ crores. Of this, over 8½ million maunds valued at Rs. 1½ crores are estimated to be lost owing to bad storage and transport facilities. The most regrettable feature of the potato crop in India is its abnormally low yield as compared with that in other parts of the world due to the poor quality of seeds, high incidence of diseases, inadequate manuring and the absence of varieties suitable for local conditions. At present, the grower gets only about 50 per cent. of the price paid by the consumer. The Report not only contains a number of useful suggestions for grading, marketing and storage, but also deals with many points of detail concerning packing, finance, research, etc. The progress in the actual conditions of marketing should be accelerated on the basis of those valuable studies.

DAIRY RESEARCH WORK

The Government of India, says a Press Note, have recently established a dairy chemistry and dairy bacteriology section at the Imperial Dairy Research Institute and these sections have, pending the construction of the new institute, been accommodated at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

DETER SORE IN LONDON

Mr. Herbert Bevin, Minister for Labour and National Service, on May 8, welcomed 50 young Indians who had gone to Great Britain for training in munitions industries. "I really believe," said Mr. Bevin, "that today we are making history. I think we are forging unity between Indian workers and the workers of Great Britain." Mr. Bevin added: "We know India must be industrialised, but we are anxious today to guide that industrialisation and distribute its benefits."

LOST WORKING DAYS

As a result of industrial disputes in the Province of Bombay, 4,898,278 working days were lost in 1940. There were 88 strikes involving 211,548 workers. Forty-eight strikes took place in the textile industry, and the industry suffered a loss of 4,842,885 working days.

Out of the total number of disputes, questions relating to pay and allowances accounted for over 77 per cent. of the strikes. Of the disputes, 21 per cent. were decided favourably to the workers, 81 per cent. partially favourable to the workers, and 44 per cent. ended in favour of the employers.

ADVICE TO KANGANEES

At a reception given to him by the All-Ceylon Head Kanganees' Association at Nawalapitya, Mr. T. N. S. Raghavan, I.C.S., the Government of India Agent in Ceylon, advised the Kanganees to be like elder brothers of labourers and act as a link between the labourers and the Estate Superintendent. Mr. Raghavan said that the question of recruitment of labour may or may not occur in the future, but the head Kanganees would continue to serve a useful purpose in estates.

BONUS FUND FOR MENIAL SERVANTS

The Government of Madras have under consideration the framing of a set of rules in regard to the constitution of a bonus fund for the benefit of menial servants and employees in the employ of local bodies. They have asked the Corporation of Madras whether the latter had any scheme for such employees under its control.

HINDU WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO PROPERTY

We regret to state that in the article on "Hindu Women's Rights to Property," Recent Judgment of the Federal Court, contributed to our May issue by Mr. S. Ramaswami Iyer, an unfortunate error crept into the print in the last and concluding sentence of the article. (p. 399) That sentence should read thus and without a 'not' that was there.

"Thus the result of this recent decision is that Hindu widows can have the benefit of the Act in respect of cash, movables and immovable property except agricultural land in the provinces."

The author of the article would like to add that the resulting position is undoubtedly anomalous but is likely to be rectified at no distant date by suitable legislation as a result of the recommendations of the Committee, which is now examining the whole subject of Hindu Women's Rights to Property.

GALLANTRY OF INDIAN SOLDIER

A Lance-Naik of an Indian regiment, whose gallantry secured the surrender of an enemy headquarters, has been awarded the Indian Order of Merit, says a Press Note. During the advance on Nibeiwa, Anop Singh, by the skilful use of his Bren gun, had secured the advance of his platoon under heavy fire and he moved forward alone in advance of his men and attacked the dug-out of an enemy headquarters until it surrendered. He entered dug-out after dug-out until the whole headquarters had been captured.

CONGRESS EXECUTIVES

Those that hold executive posts in Congress Committees should resign if they are unwilling to offer satyagraha. That is the instruction of Acharya Kripalani, General Secretary, conveyed to the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee for circulation among district units.

PRISONERS OF WAR

India has so far accepted responsibility for accommodating 21,000 European prisoners of war on behalf of His Majesty's Government, says a Press communiqué.

THE INDIAN REVIEW

A MONTHLY PERIODICAL DEVOTED TO THE DISCUSSION OF ALL TOPICS OF INTEREST

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THE TESTING TIME

By MR. G. A. JOHNSON

WITH the situation changing rapidly from day to day, it is difficult to supply a picture of the war which will be even approximately accurate at the time of publication. This is true of daily journalism. It is obviously true of a monthly article. Nevertheless, the limitations imposed on the writer have certain advantages. They help him to clarify his own mind, so far as possible; to decide if he can, what features of a situation are likely to remain important over a fairly long period.

Fortunately, guidance is available. On the high authority of Mr. Churchill and Lord Halifax, among others, it is learnt that the most important of the conflicts now raging is the Battle of the Atlantic, as it is called, the determined effort of the German Navy to prevent supplies reaching Britain from overseas and, particularly, from America. On the success or failure of this effort depends the final outcome of the war.

It would, however, be a mistake to imagine that, because the Battle of the Atlantic is of supreme importance, nothing else matters at all. Other things matter very much. The Battle of Britain has been resumed with vigour. It is, apparently, no longer the sole object of the German air raids on Britain to attack

British ports (and so continue on land the battle being fought on, over and under the sea). The attacks on London and on Midland towns suggest a return to the plans of last autumn and winter, although, of course, these attacks may be, as the Germans assert, reprisals. If that is so, continued and methodical bombing of London, night after night, is unlikely, so long as the Royal Air Force does not undertake the nightly bombing of Berlin. But whatever plan the Germans follow, and even if they have no plan except to create indiscriminate havoc and suffering, the Battle of Britain will remain important—and invasion cannot be ruled out entirely.

Of great importance, too—and this we in India can readily appreciate—is the Battle for the Suez Canal, if we may call it that. The evacuation of Benghazi came at the end of a period of encouraging success. It has been quickly followed by a series of set-backs. At the time of writing, the situation in Libya and the Western Desert is described as "stabilized". It is not a very satisfactory word, for it tends to suggest that there is nothing more to do when there is, in fact, a very great deal to do. For the present, while the situation in the Balkans is making heavy demands on reserves and reinforcements, a check to the enemy.

advance is all that can be expected. But if these Germans and Italians now camping outside Sollum and Tobruk can be reinforced more quickly than our own forces, it is obvious that "stabilization" will be temporary. This threat to the Suez Canal will have to be removed at the earliest favourable opportunity.

It is about the Balkans, where the fighting is now heaviest, that one hears most belittling comment. The loss of the Battle of the Balkans would not be fatal to ourselves as combatants; but it would be disastrous to the Greeks and have serious consequences for the Turks, who might be compelled to come to terms at a time when terms would probably be far from favourable. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to emphasise that every step the Germans take towards the East is of direct interest to us in this country. The prizes on the road to India, particularly the oil wells, are too attractive to be neglected.

There is another feature of the Balkans situation which deserves consideration. It has been said that the most vital struggle is in the Atlantic. If that is lost, then, many believe, Britain is lost. But if it is won, Germany is by no means beaten. She has to be attacked and overcome. It may fairly safely be assumed that, with British and American production continuing at growing strength, the Royal Air Force will, before very long, outnumber the Luftwaffe. If numerical superiority had come earlier, much earlier, say, a year ago, it might have determined the issue of the war by itself. France might still have been fighting and there would have been, perhaps, a Battle of Germany instead of a Battle of Britain. However, as things have turned out, there has been a Battle of Britain, and its lessons, we may suppose, have not been lost on the Germans. When they launched it, they probably hoped to break the British spirit. They have learnt that the British spirit cannot be broken in this way. They have no doubt also learnt some of the details of British defensive methods. We may assume that Germany no longer thinks that the war can be won or lost in the air alone (landings no doubt formed part of her

plan, but, in the early stages, domination of the air was clearly considered the key to victory) and since confidence in the defence is the basis of successful resistance, it seems fairly safe to say now that, however great the margin of British superiority may eventually become, Germany will not sue for peace so long as she is attacked only from the air.

The importance of the land operations in Greece is, that they enable contact to be made with the German force on the Continent of Europe. They are being fought at a considerable distance from Germany and, even if the Germans got tired of launching their vastly superior forces against the splendidly resisting Allies, it would be a very difficult matter to chase the Germans back to Germany. Nevertheless, if the Greeks and the British Imperial forces can hold out and throw back wave after wave of attackers, it will have a more decisive effect on the outcome of the war than anything which has taken place since the failure of the aerial attack on Britain. The encouragement to doubters will be enormous; the decline of German prestige in the occupied countries will be correspondingly great; Russia and Japan will be likely to draw a revised picture of their interests. Moreover, with the Germans held here, other diversions in strength at suitable points in the long German-occupied coast-line would probably be undertaken.

If German numbers and equipment eventually tell, and the forces in Greece have to yield or evacuate, there will be other opportunities later on. Probably, by the time this article is published, it will be known whether opportunities are still to seek. But, whatever happens, the resistance in Greece will be a blow to German confidence. It has already brought out some of the German weak points. It has shown that there are troops in the German front lines whose hearts are not in the struggle. It has shown that, man for man, the Germans compare unfavourably with their opponents. The British plan, concerted by Mr. Eden and Generals Dill and Wavell with their Greek friends, presumably allowed for a Yugoslavia collapse. That the struggle has been continued in spite of it indicates that resistance is, in the opinion of the experts, very much worth

while. Even if it succeeds only in intensifying war-weariness in Germany and aiding those who, in Germany and the occupied countries, are ready to take advantage of any such mood, it will have served one useful purpose.

One of the most enigmatic developments of the past few weeks is the Russo-Japanese Neutrality Pact. If we are to believe Mr. Matsuoka, it was signed on the spur of the moment; but, if so, it seems strange that so experienced a diplomat was able to make up his mind so quickly about the Pact's advantages for Japan. Mr. Matsuoka is annoyed that this, like other recent accomplishments of Japanese diplomacy, has had rather a "bad" Press. If, however, it is true that Russia has decided not to let the Pact interfere with her supplies to China, it is difficult to see what Japan has gained by it. There was never any reasonable cause to suppose that Russia would interfere with Japanese southward expansion.

Russia sits, and will apparently continue to sit, on the fence—if such a figure of speech is considered appropriate to the bulk of the sitter and the flimsiness of the fence dividing peace and war. Recently, she has been making gestures of friendliness to Yugoslavia, of disapproval to Hungary, for example. The value of such gestures is not apparent. They remind one of the attitude of the League of Nations and of Britain and France to the aggressor States in the years preceding 1939. In present circumstances, they may be dangerous. The Ukraine remains a German objective. Moreover, unless and until Russia commits herself more deeply, Britain can only note and record such evidence of estrangement between Russia and Germany. Her actions cannot be modified on account of it until something more definite emerges.

The United States is obviously in the war "up to the limit". Her attitude towards Greenland, towards Axis and Axis-controlled shipping and to the Red Sea indicates a determination to brush aside all obstacles to the fulfilment of the policy of giving full aid to the democracies.

It is pleasant to notice the spirit of growing optimism among men whom we have a reason to expect to be well informed. General Smuts expects Germany to be

beaten within a year or eighteen months. There is no means of knowing on what he bases this estimate. But the General's shrewdness is well known—he was the handy man of the War Cabinet in the last war and was one of Lloyd George's most trusted military advisers.

On the other hand, Mr. Fadden, acting Prime Minister of Australia, declares that the war will be long and hard. On the surface, Mr. Fadden's appears the more reliable estimate. There is, however, one factor which it may still be well to bear in mind and which has been briefly alluded to above. The German people were promised a short war. Time and again, the approaching defeat of England has been announced. Yet recently tens of thousands of German lives have been sacrificed and the war is apparently no nearer its end. Britain remains undefeated. If the attack in the Atlantic is decisively beaten off, so that the promise of Hitler's February speech is shown to be futile, the invitation to conquer fresh worlds, in the Balkans, in Africa or farther East, may fall on deaf ears.

It would be unwise to place too much confidence in this line of reasoning, especially if the confidence is based on a distinction between Nazis and Germans. "Germans in the plural," as Sir Robert Vansittart called them in a recent broadcast, are persistently aggressive. Nevertheless, if a spirit of revolt or even of questioning begins to show itself among the herd, its spread may be rapid. It will not be forgotten that both the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the German Revolution of 1918 had, if not their origin, at least some of their earliest and most convincing triumphs among the navies of these countries. Thus a German defeat in the Battle of the Atlantic might have a special as well as a general significance. Kiel, Hamburg, Wilhelmshaven and the rest know the full weight of the British aerial as well as naval attack. Their knowledge may have consequences. It should, however, be emphasised that a mere collapse of German morale will be insufficient. There must be no disputing afterwards about the reality of the German defeat. Another German threat, a generation hence, must be made impossible.

21st April, 1941.

THE 'TWO NATIONS' THEORY

BY PROFESSOR HARI CHARAN MUKERJI

(Midnapur College, Midnapur)

THE advocates of Pakistan base their claim for separate existence on the assumption that the Hindus and the Moslems are two separate nations and should not be forced to live under one federal government. They conveniently ignore the fact that the federal government, unlike a unitary form of government, is particularly designed to meet the needs of separate racial entities living under one government for mutual protection and advancement. In post-war Europe, we find that each of the countries Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia consisted of two or three nationalities grouped under one government, and no murmurings of discontent were heard in them so long as outside influence was not at work to bring about estrangement among them, by fomenting quarrels to suit the purposes of these outsiders. In the U. S. S. R. we find a conglomeration of nations at different stages of civilization and progress, possessing different cultures and professing different faiths, living together and pooling their united resources for mutual advancement and prosperity. The United States of America has given asylum to almost all European nationalities, but these latter have all been welded together into one great nation, or are in the process of being so united. Even in the British Empire, we find that South Africa contains two distinct nationalities, viz., the Britishers and the Boers, pursuing different and contradictory policies. We find how strong is the feeling there among an influential section of the people, to break away from the British Commonwealth of Nations. This feeling was exhibited in a striking manner on the

outbreak of the present war, when this section wanted to remain neutral and not to make common cause with Britain. But defeated on the floor of the House and compelled to give up its cherished desire, it has bowed gracefully to the voice of the majority and has raised no cry for separate existence. In Canada also, there has been for a long time the keenest rivalry between people of British and French extraction, who form the population of this great dominion.

But Mother India has been peculiarly unfortunate in this respect. A section of the Moslem population, under the leadership of Mr. Jinnah, has been clamouring for separate existence for some time past. But this claim, on their part, that the Moslems form a separate nation will not bear a moment's scrutiny. A nation, as we understand it, connotes a separate ethnic group, speaking one particular language, not infrequently possessing one common culture, inhabiting one particular country and feeling enthusiastic love for it, and inspired by common national ideals. The British, the French, the Italians, the Germans, the Japanese are nations in this sense. But the Indian Moslems do not belong to one particular ethnic group. There is no social similarity between a Pathan of the North-West Frontier Province and a Bengali Muslim or a Moplah living on the Malabar coast. On the contrary, we discover the greatest similarity between a Muslim and a Hindu inhabiting the same province. For example, the Hindus and Muslims living in Bengal possess the same ethnic and linguistic characteristics, follow almost the same mode of life, suffer from the same

economic difficulties and are inspired by the same political ambitions. Similarly, the Pathans, the Hindus and the Sikhs of the Punjab exactly show the same characteristics. And it is no wonder that this should be so; for the vast majority of the Muslim population of a province were recruited from the ranks of converts from Hinduism. There is no difference between them and the original Hindu population, except in the matter of religion. The Mohammedan population in all the provinces of India speak exactly the language of the rest of the population. The claim is now made that Urdu or Hindusthani is the language of the Muslims, that this is not true at all of the Bengali Muslims, who form about one-third of the total Muslim population of India; for 99 per cent. of these Bengali Muslims can speak no other language except Bengali. From the point of view of culture and political aspirations, there is also very little in common between the Pathan and the Bengali Muslim. Their social habits and economic conditions also are as different as the poles are asunder. The one is of warlike habits and makes his living by enlisting in the army, or if he happens to live across the border by carrying on depredations against British India, or against neighbouring tribes, whilst the other is essentially of peaceable habits and follows agriculture as his means of livelihood. Least of all we have to note with regret that though India is the fatherland of these Indian Muslims, a vast majority of them have not yet learnt to look upon her with that passionate love and regard, which is one of the indispensable conditions of nationhood. So the claim that Indian Muslims form a separate nation has no leg to stand on.

Now, let us examine carefully in what respects the Muslims differ from the Hindus. As has been stated just now, there is no difference whatsoever between members of these two communities living in any particular province, except in the matter of religion, and the personal law that governs them. They belong to the same race, speak the same language, follow almost the same mode of life, and suffer from the same economic difficulties. The fact that the Muslims have not generally developed a passionate love for the country is due entirely to the lack of political consciousness and education and culture among them. The points of similarity between them, on the whole, are many and striking and clearly mark them off from the Europeans. We can take, for example, their attitude towards life in general. A European differs in many respects from an Indian. These can be summed up as the former's ceaseless activity, his genius for organisation, his intrepid and enterprising spirit, his capacity both for work and enjoyment, his higher standard of life and the generally higher level of his education and culture. But all this has been due to, and fostered by, his peculiar attitude towards life which has been the main spring of his action. He has his gaze riveted upon this life and does not attempt to look beyond this to a world beyond the grave, where the inequalities and deficiencies of this life will be all redressed and full compensation made for all we suffer here. This latter is the characteristic eastern attitude towards life, common both to the Hindus and the Moslems. But the European, not having a living faith in his religion and, in the next world, wants to make the

most of this life's opportunities to turn them to the best possible account. To him veritably 'one crowded hour of glorious life is worth an age without a name'. He will never rest satisfied with what he has gained; he will be pushing on and on with his efforts to make fresh additions to the stock of human knowledge and to extend still further the boundary of it. He cannot but make a great stir wherever he may be. But these attempts only excite a smile in the easterner who will merely question the wisdom of it all. Now this attitude characterises both the Hindus and the Muslims, with the exception of a microscopic minority who have come directly under Western influence. This antithesis has been the most important, because it has been at the root of the difference between the east and the west, and the achievements of western science are directly due to this characteristic western attitude towards life. Similarity in this respect between the Hindus and the Moslems is a thing of more vital importance than mere slight accidental differences as regards unessential matters. Next, as regards social institutions we once again discover striking similarities between these two communities, which at the same time mark them off from the European. They both live under the joint family system, are allowed to marry multiple wives, have a rather not very enlightened idea about the destiny of the female sex, except those among them who have come directly under western influence, have a marked distaste for club life and possess strong family attachments. They also equally suffer from the same political disabilities and economic disadvantages. But none of these vital factors which weld together a people into a compact nation

will be taken into consideration by the advocates of Pakistan. According to them, religious difference forms, as it were, an unbridgeable gulf between the two communities. As a sufficient refutation of this argument, it may be mentioned that though both the Germans and the Britishers profess the same faith, it has not restrained them from carrying on a most relentless war against each other, nor vital religious difference (in addition to racial, linguistic and cultural) has stood in the way of Japan's adhesion to the Tripartite Pact. As a matter of fact, in these modern times religious affinity has been no bond of union between two nations, who have always been guided in forming alliances by economic and political considerations. This religious obsession is only a relic of the mediæval age and has now become hopelessly antiquated and out of date, and the sooner it is discarded, the better it will be for the Mohammedans, and for the peace and prosperity of India as a whole.

WHENCE LEADS THIS ALL ?

(A SONNET)

BY MR. OWEN SNELL

—:o:—

Whence leads this train of unrelenting fears,
Of nations banded in one awful guilt
To nullify, on passion's angered hilt,
The cherished hopes of mankind built in tears ?
This hate enthroned on pinnacles of race,
This envy fed on greed that knows no end ;
This lust for power that, in its threat to rend
The fabric of the world and every grace,
Defeats its own intent : whence leads this all ?
To manacles new-wrought in sophistry
And degradation masked with artistry ;
Or human suffrage, native rights, for all ?

O Spirit, wake ! sway the uncertain choice !
Defeated man awaits to hear thy voice.

President Roosevelt begins the Third Term

BY MR. P. GOPALA KRISHNAYYA,

(Editor, "India and U. S. A.", New York City, U. S. A.)

[N a solemn hour of crisis comparable only to the crises attending the first inauguration of Abraham Lincoln when the great emancipator had to decide the fateful question of slavery at the risk

system, falls now the burden of leading his countrymen in the cause.

President Roosevelt, after nearly eight years at the helm of the ship of State, knows what it means to be Chief Executive in modern times. The atmosphere of crisis hung heavy about his first and second administrations and has become but the heavier as he starts a third. Yet the cares of office have not broken him as they broke Presidents before him. He has always seemed to enjoy the Presidency.

Day in and day out, Franklin D. Roosevelt spends longer hours on the job than any President in living memory. It may be, because ever since 1938, he has viewed his office as an emergency control room, but those who know him well believe he would have been about the same under any circumstances. Being of a highly nervous temperament, he must keep occupied.

Presidential days in the White House follow a rather well-defined routine. Mr. Roosevelt habitually goes to sleep late, usually after midnight, because he likes to read in bed. He does not awaken, therefore, until about 9 A.M. and does not get up for another hour. This is a mixed hour, which he enjoys thoroughly. While eating his scrambled eggs, toast and coffee, he looks over confidential correspondence, the day's visiting list, perhaps a couple of memoranda and the newspapers. He reads five or six papers a day, and frequently thumbs through dispatches coming over a news ticker in an outer office.

About 10 A.M., Mr. Roosevelt reaches the Executive Offices for a day, that is usually divided into two parts. From 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. he keeps formal engagements, limited generally to a quarter hour each, and then is ready for luncheon. He spends an hour over this meal, but invariably uses the time for talk with some one person. From 2 until 5 or 5-30, the President receives people, mostly in the government, with whom he wishes particularly to talk privately.



PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

of Civil War, and the second of Woodrow Wilson, when the scholarly chief executive had to act upon the entry of the United States in the great war, Franklin Delano Roosevelt took the oath of office recently for the third time as President of the United States. He is the first man in the history of the Republic to hold the high office three times. As he re-dedicates himself to the service of the nation, he will face problems more vast and complex than any to confront the long line of his predecessors in the White House.

The United States is not at war and yet is not at peace. Its industrial plant is being mobilised to aid abroad the countries resisting aggression by dictatorship. On the President, by the very nature of the American governmental

So far as the office is concerned, Mr. Roosevelt keeps to a five-day week, but no Saturdays and few Sundays pass without a certain amount of work. Whether the President is in Washington or away from the capital, these days—thinking days they might be called—are spent in handling the voluminous correspondence that requires, so he believes, personally dictated replies, and in reading reports submitted by many experts within and without the government. After reading those reports—they constantly fill to overflowing a wire basket moved each evening from the President's desk to his bed table and back again the next morning—the Chief Executive pencils little notes on paper tabs or dictates comment to one of his assistants.

The memos reach high-ranking Administration aides with considerable speed and regularity. Their employment is comparable to the Presidential use of the telephone. Perhaps, a fourth of Mr. Roosevelt's working time is taken by telephone conversations. Cabinet members are encouraged to consult with him by telephone. Heads of executive agencies, leaders on Capitol Hill, key men in defence, all these are among the fifty to 100 persons listed on the White House switch-board as eligible to be put through to the President directly whenever they call.

Out of the rigorous daily routine comes the administrative supervision of the government. Conferences held, reports read, letters received, all help to shape the policies enunciated in "fireside chats", speeches, messages to Congress, legislative proposals and diplomatic notes.

Just as the economic emergency preoccupied the President at the start of his first administration, so defence in its many ramifications preoccupies him as he comes up to his third. That monopoly of interest has affected the nature of the reports he reads at night and the nature of the conferences he holds by day.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was 51 when on taking office on March 4, 1933, he confronted the economic crisis and banking collapse. He is now 59 years'

old. He is older but no less vigorous. The Washington correspondents, who face him twice a week in his oval office with its old ship prints and ship models, see behind the gadget-cluttered desk a man in the pink of good health. His hair is grayer and thinner than in 1933. The face is heavier and more deeply lined. Yet he seems much as always. There is the old mannerism of tossing his head before replying to a question. He still glances directly from man to man in the intervals between questions. There is the habit, familiar to all attendants at press conferences, of fitting one cigarette after another into a reed-like holder.

The Presidency and its problems have nevertheless left their mark on Mr. Roosevelt. Though he gives the impression of cheerfulness, it is cheerfulness without all the spontaneity associated with the first flush of the New Deal and the echoes of "Happy Days are Here Again". Optimistic he appears to be, despite occasional press conference discussions in serious vein of the critical struggle between democracy and dictatorship, but after nearly eight years, correspondents have learned that the President does not always reveal his true feelings, that he seeks to give the best impression possible and knows well how to parry with a humorous remark a question he does not want to answer.

As Franklin D. Roosevelt prepares to carry on the job that is the most responsible in the Americas, perhaps the most responsible in the world, Washington observers find him serious but not grim, concerned but not worried. Over the problem of national defence, he seems to express more determination to reach a satisfactory conclusion than he has expressed over any of the critical problems he has known as President. He is older than at the first inauguration, older and more experienced, but in confidence and vigor of assurance he is the same man who told the American people on March 4, 1933: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." One epithet to describe the President would be "courage" and the most characteristic thing about him is, that he stimulates everybody who comes in contact with him, with it,

NOTES OF A TALK WITH GANDHIJI

BY SIR ROBERT HOLLAND

EVERY earnest and thoughtful man reverences the doctrine of *Ahimsa*. Practised with selfless devotion, it must bring about the moral purification of the individual and manifest itself as a powerful aid to the fulfilment of God's will for humanity.

Dare we hope that it will prove to be the instrument for bringing about peace between the now-warring nations of the earth, or for establishing new and happier relations between Britain and India?

The answer is that no such results can be predicted, firstly, because the promulgation of religious truth must have a spiritual and not a temporal aim.

Any devotee of *Ahimsa* who offers non-violent opposition to war effort, in the hope of reaping either world peace or *swaraj* for India, is bound to be disappointed because he is not seeking the things of the spirit but earthly things.

On the other hand, genuine *Ahimsa* can take no heed of such considerations as the extent to which it could be practised without causing embarrassment to the British Government in the prosecution of the war, or the extent to which that limitation, in turn, must be subordinated to the determination of Congress not to carry non-embarrassment to the point of self-extinction.

This is why Gandhiji has insisted that it is the quality of civil disobedience that matters, rather than the quantity, and that *satyagrahis* must be selected from among those who, with perfect purity of motive and conscientious conviction, are out-and-out non-violent resisters, either against war in all its forms or against participation in the present war.

Satyagraha, in its application to present happenings, is not yet purified from materialities. It was for that reason that Gandhiji kept the keys of civil disobedience in his hands. Are they slipping from his grasp prematurely? At the outset, there was an element of stubborn dissent at the centre, on account of the limitations and restrictions imposed by Gandhiji on the inauguration of the movement. The Congress President and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

incline to estimate Gandhiji's plan from the point of view of political leadership. The Pandit said, in October last, that "Gandhiji has developed a certain technique of action which has yielded great results to our movement for freedom and it is obvious that Gandhiji is best fitted to lead a movement with that technique Some of us, including me, view these questions from a political angle only, though all of us hope to keep in mind the moral aspect of non-violence in our struggle".

If a man earnestly and devoutly believes that violence ought to be discarded as a means of settling human differences, so that Love, free and sovereign, may alone direct and govern man's relationships; and if, even when a war is raging, his thoughts and actions are regulated by that belief, then that man's attitude, which is inspired by his conscience, ought to be regarded with respect and he is entitled to be exempted by the State from the obligations which are shouldered by his fellow-citizens in regard to the use of violence against the enemy. But his non-violent creed, truly apprehended, could not require him to proselytise when the country is at war, because violence rears its head again on that path. A conscientious objector is not entitled to press his opinions on public attention in such a manner as to prejudice the country's war effort, although the world longs for war to cease, and reverences the man who from the depths of his soul preaches the gospel of peace and in his daily life practises non-violence with sincerity and conviction.

The use of non-violence as a 'technique of action' in a political struggle is, however, on a different footing altogether. Past history has shown that the method can be very efficacious in a righteous cause which rallies public opinion to its support, and against a fair-minded and chivalrous adversary. Against a ruthless and savage foe, it is of course of no avail. Mass sacrifice of humble lives before a Genghis Khan or a Hitler could only serve to rivet the fetters of violence upon the world for centuries to come.

But whether or not it has good hope of success, *satyagraha* for the purpose of achieving a political end is surely an unconventional form of militarism. It cannot claim the sanction of religious inspiration, because the rank and file move in obedience to their leaders' commands rather than as devotees of *Ahimsa*.

There is reason to believe that certain Socialist leaders hope to assume control of Congress and to substitute mass *satyagraha* for the present selective plan. So far the movement, although infringing the law of the land, has been conducted with unprecedented decorum. But there have been disquieting incidents at Jalgaon, Patna, and Lahore which show upon what a delicate equilibrium the maintenance of non-violence is poised and foreshadow terrible happenings if control of the movement passes into the hands of those who "view the question from a political angle only". How often has the merciless logic of facts shown that terrorism, violence, murders and Hindu-Muslim outbreaks are the inevitable outcome of civil disobedience.

But even if *satyagraha* could be practised in India in its purest form and even if it animated all the peoples of India, it could not be the instrument for bringing about peace between the now-warring nations of the earth, because the time is past. The way of peace was made plain to the aggressor nations through the Covenant of the League of Nations, but they rejected it and drew the sword. They scorn all moral and ethical values and are, in Mr. Cordell Hull's words, "bent on uprooting the very foundation of orderly relations among nations and on subverting, undermining, and destroying existing social and political relations within nations. . . . Let no man say that in the world of today any nation, not willing to defend itself, is safe. National life itself today imposes as an absolute obligation the will to national defence, should national institutions or integrity ever be threatened".

Even if India could to-morrow furnish to the world a serene example of the virtue and value of non-violence, its beacon-light would be engulfed by the roaring tide of war. But in fact the strength of sentiment in India is against Hitlerism and all its

variants. The great mass of the people, and their leaders also, are whole-heartedly anti-Nazi, because there is no place in the Indian heart for the creed of worship of the sovereign State, of brute force, and of racial mania.

Rabindranath Tagore, in a statement which was signed also by other leaders, said: "India must stand by Britain and resist the disastrous policy of domination by force. No Indian would desire that England should lose the battle for freedom she is fighting today." Gandhiji allowed it to be known that he was in favour of giving unconditional support to Britain during the war, as were many of the Congress leaders. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru himself said that India's freedom will not be worth many days' purchase if Fascism and Nazism dominate the world, and that India must stand for the union of freedom-loving peoples. The help which India has given and is giving, is eloquent proof of the anti-Nazi feeling in the country. That feeling is firm-based upon the traditional culture and thought and faiths of India, upon the profound philosophy of Hinduism, upon the fervent brotherhood of Mahomedanism, upon the basic truths of Buddhism, and the ideals of Christianity. Although the Hindu Scriptures commend non-violence as the highest rule of conduct, yet sometimes war is a fell necessity and there is no alternative to it. Learned men find sanction in the Bhagavad-Gita for war in a righteous cause.

Indian help is given freely and in every form, because India knows that basic moral values are at stake. But material interest is also a compelling force. India has a national overseas front of her own, and of tremendous importance to her, in East Africa primarily, in the Persian Gulf, on the Arabian Coast, in Burma and Malaya and farther across the seas, besides increasing trans-Himalayan interests. India's cultural, educational and social organisations beyond her frontiers are in peril from Nazism, not to speak of her huge capital investments. The identity of India's interest with the interests of the nations who are fighting Nazism is self-evident, because if

Nazism won, India must fall a prey to the strongest of the victors, while if Nazism is defeated, India will have to play a greater part upon the world stage than was ever dreamed of. From India's shores there will some day issue forth many men and much material for the rebuilding of the shattered civilization of the world, and Indian culture and Indian thought will influence profoundly the destinies of humanity. Meanwhile, the tide of events is hastening India's independence and is assuring both her industrial advance and her power of defending herself against foreign invasion.

The defeat of Nazism will have a powerful effect on healthy socialization of India, and on the obliteration of untouchability.

Further, the stimulus of victories and the pride that Indian troops are participating in a righteous cause are working on men's mind in India.

For all these reasons, *Ahimsa* can in the present crisis have no powerful appeal for the people of India, and they would not stand forth as champions of non-violence in a warring world.

Neither is there any hope that *Ahimsa* would be the means of establishing new and happier relations between Britain and India.

The problem of India's nationhood has emerged from the mists of doubt, suspicion, and recrimination which have clouded the issues for so long. The obstacles ahead, upon the last stage of the journey, are clear-cut and formidable, but they are sure to be conquered. On the one side lies the Scylla of "Pakistan", and on the other the Charybdis of "Hindu yoke". Both must be avoided. The leaders will inevitably have to meet to hammer out a concrete scheme for the Constitution which will secure the acceptance of all the powerful elements in India's national life, including the British element, and the British Government will have to give prompt and whole-hearted effect to the scheme as soon as the war is over. Thus, and thus only, can India find her true self and be redeemed in the eyes of the world. If compromise were but to appear above the horizon (and public

opinion will soon compel the end of the stalemate), it would be easy enough to bring about interim adjustments in the Central Government so as to enable representative Indians at once to take part in the Executive. *Satyagraha* could not help to bring about the desired compromise, because it is not the administration in being that has to be persuaded or overcome.

Manœuvring for position, to which all parties, including the British Government must plead guilty, has gone on long enough and is bound to come to an end.

Labour leaders in England, and party leaders in the United States also, have set aside objectives for which they have worked during generations, and have joined with those to whom they are fundamentally opposed on political and economic theory, in meeting an immediate urgent peril. Why not so in India? Indian leaders are at one in mind as to the need for defeating Nazism and as to the need to forward the movement for national independence. Why do they not at long last drop the barriers and join hands?

But it is not sufficient that the leaders only of the great parties should get together.

A new spirit of unity and unanimity must be born among the people themselves. The varied elements that make up the Indian population must forget those things which have kept them asunder in the past, and regard only those things, far greater in number and importance, which have drawn them together under the mantle of Mother India. So will arise the basic common understanding—the unity in diversity—on which parliamentary institutions rest.

The will to unite is of far greater importance than the pattern of political organization. "Self-government does not mean majority rule. It means unanimity rule; for it exists only when there underlies all differences that residuum of fundamental, even if unacknowledged, agreement which excludes violence."* Universal suffrage will not be a panacea for the political difficulties of India,

* Geoffrey Vickers in "Purpose and Force".

unless a spiritual basis for unity is first achieved. The difficulties in India are now largely psychological, and they must be overcome, so that national self-government may not be a new source of divisions and strife, instead of a blessing. India is too big a country for centralised dictation. One organization, or one society, however well organized, will not be able always to shepherd the people. The organization that would make itself supreme in democracy must always remember that one day the pendulum will swing, and its domination will be ended, perhaps violently, by new forces.

It is upon the spiritual element in the human make-up that the foundations of mutual understanding and of ordered national government can alone be laid.

Will not Gandhiji raise the banner of unanimity, and send forth his spiritual message to the people in India's dark hour? There are millions of people, not merely in India but in Greater Britain and in the Americas, who pay reverence to the pure and lofty idealism to which he has been led in his search for truth. They are waiting in anxiety and in growing perplexity for a sign from him.

THE NAZI THRUST INTO THE BALKANS

BY Mr. M. V. SUBRAHMANYAM, M.A., L.T.

(Lecturer in History, St. John's College, Palamcottah)

THE Nazi thrust into the Balkans is not any sudden onslaught dictated by the exigencies of the present military situation; the desire to dominate the Balkans, the 'drang nach osten,'—the drive towards the East—has been the keystone of the Nazi policy ever since Hitler came to power in 1933. Since that year, Hitler has been gradually carrying out his plan to dominate South-eastern Europe, and the present campaign is only the last phase of his drive into the Balkans.

Soon after coming to power, Hitler realised that Austria and Czecho-Slovakia stood in the way of the 'drang nach osten'. Post-war Austria, though small in size, was a buffer state in a key position, and the Powers knew that if it collapsed the whole Danube equilibrium would go to pot. The European Powers were, therefore, interested in keeping Austria as an independent state. There is a story to illustrate this point. In the early days of the Nazi regime, Hitler, Goering, and Goebbels discussed as to what they would do, if the Nazi regime crashed. Goering said: "I will wear civilian clothes and no one will recognise me." Goebbels said: "I will keep my mouth shut and people will not know who I am." But Hitler said: "I need not do any such thing. I am an Austrian and, therefore,

the Powers will have to protect me." It will thus be seen that the Powers were interested in maintaining the *status quo*. It was on account of this reason that when a customs-union scheme between Germany and Austria was suggested by pre-Nazi Germany, it was vetoed by the League of Nations in 1931.

When Hitler came to power in 1933, and when he wanted to absorb Austria, he was opposed by Dr. Dollfuss, the Pocket-Dictator, and his ally, Mussolini. Mussolini even moved his troops to the Brenner Pass, to prevent the Nazi absorption of Austria. Hitler waited for some time. In the meantime the weak sanctions applied by Britain, France and other members of the League against Italy on account of her aggression against Abyssinia, made Mussolini turn to Hitler, and Hitler used the opportunity to form the Rome-Berlin Axis. 'Politics makes strange bed fellows.' With Mussolini as his ally, Hitler started his nefarious campaign against Austria in March, 1938, and against Czecho-Slovakia in September, 1938. He succeeded in absorbing Austria and Sudetenland mainly because the Western Powers were not prepared for war at that moment. Then in March, 1939, he established a protectorate over Bohemia and Moravia and dismembered and destroyed the Czecho-Slovakia's State.

At the same time, Hungary became an Axis partner; for she regained her lost territory in Slovakia and Ruthenia with German help after Munich. In this manner, Germany became a neighbour of the Balkan countries.

The German drive into the Balkans has two phases. In the earlier phase there was Economic penetration. In the more recent phase there is going on the diplomatic and military drive. The economic penetration of the Balkans has been going on for years. As a result of some clever arrangements made by Dr. Schacht, the German Minister of Economics, and his successor, Dr. Funk, the Balkan countries were obliged to sell their agricultural produce to Germany and obtain German goods in return. Germany was able to pay 40 per cent. more than the world market prices and was willing to purchase the whole stock, such as the Turkish fig crop, the Greek and Bulgarian tobacco crop and so on. Thus by some clever methods, Germany was able to establish an economic stranglehold on the Balkan countries.

While the economic drive was going on, Hitler, as we mentioned above, prepared the way for the diplomatic and military thrust into the Balkans by annexing Austria, establishing control over Bohemia and Moravia and allying with Hungary. When the international situation became worse after the Munich Pact, Britain, realising the importance of the Balkans in the strategic scheme of the British Empire, gave guarantees to Roumania and Greece and they accepted the British guarantees. When war actually broke out in September 1939, Britain succeeded in concluding an Anglo-Turkish Pact. This was a diplomatic triumph for Britain; for the Pact was concluded in spite of Von Papen's subtle manoeuvres. According to this Treaty, Turkey agreed to ally herself with Britain if there was any threat to her independence from Germany. But there is an escape clause which relieves Turkey of any obligation to go to war with Russia. Foiled in her attempt to draw in Turkey to the Nazi parlour, Hitler turned to the West and the Norwegian, Netherlandish and French

campaigns occupied his attention till last October.

In the meantime, Italy had entered the war on the side of Germany, and France had collapsed. Hitler asked Mussolini to push to the Balkans; for he was engaged in the task of consolidating the conquered territories. Besides, Italy is a Mediterranean Power, and she has Albania, an Italian Protectorate, which could serve as a base for her Balkan onslaught. Mussolini declared war on Greece and poured his troops into Albania. But soon the emptiness of his boasts became clear. The Italian fleet used its speed to run away from the enemy and the Italian soldiers proved to be the fastest runners from the battlefield. The rout of the Italian fleet in the Mediterranean and the army in Albania alarmed Hitler, and he now turned his attention to the Balkans.

The Balkans afford an ideal setting for Nazi methods; for, in the words of Gunther, "the Balkan peninsula is an unstable pyramid of nationalist hatreds, and of minority hatreds within nations". The success, therefore, of Germany in the Balkans has been due to two factors, namely, want of unity among the Balkan States, and German ability to exploit it.

Hitler first turned to Roumania, for her King Carol had accepted the British guarantee. Besides, Hitler wanted Roumanian oil, grain and timber. Roumania had a population of 18 millions of whom 4½ millions—nearly a quarter—were non-Roumanians. Besides, she was one of the principal beneficiaries of the Peace Treaties and had obtained Transylvania from Hungary and Southern Dobrudja from Bulgaria. She had also seized Bessarabia from Russia. All these countries—Hungary, Bulgaria and Russia—were waiting for an opportunity to get back their lost territories. Roumania had thus a serious minority problem and was surrounded by unfriendly neighbours.

Hitler induced Hungary, an Axis partner, and Bulgaria, a Pro-Nazi State, to demand their lost territories. He also engineered a revolution in Roumania. In the general confusion that followed, King Carol was forced to surrender Transylvania to Hungary

and Southern Dobrudja to Bulgaria, and Russia quickly annexed Bessarabia and Bukovina. Some time after, King Carol was forced to abdicate, and a pro-German Antonescu formed a government on behalf of Carol's son, Michael. Antonescu then allowed German divisions to occupy Roumania, and Roumania today is virtually a German protectorate.

Hitler next turned his attention towards Bulgaria. Bulgaria ruled by King Boris, a son-in-law of the King of Italy, is a pro-Axis kingdom. Hitler established German influence in that kingdom by enabling her to get Southern Dobrudja from Roumania. Under German inspiration, Bulgaria concluded a non-aggression pact with Turkey. This was a diplomatic victory for Germany; for Turkey agreed not to attack Bulgaria. After the pact, King Boris permitted German divisions to occupy Bulgaria.

The next country which Hitler attempted to bring within the 'Nazi Order' was Jugo-Slavia or South Slav Kingdom. This kingdom consisting of Croats, Serbs, and Slovenes has grown big owing to the Peace Treaties at the end of the last war. Hungary and Bulgaria want to get from her Banat and Serbian Macedonia respectively. Within Jugo-Slavia there has been for a long time quarrel between the Croats and the Serbs. The Croats, who had been Teutonised during the long period when they formed part of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, do not like the Serbs who are semi-Turkish in culture and militant in spirit. Besides, the kingdom is sandwiched between the Axis Powers and partners. So when Hitler asked Regent Paul, the ruler of Jugo-Slavia to join the 'Nazi Order', he evaded for a time, but ultimately had to sign the Tripartite Pact. This led to a bloodless revolution in Belgrade, and Regent Paul had to flee from the kingdom. Prince Peter assumed the reins of power and asked General Simovitch to form a Ministry. The *coup d'état* at Belgrade upset Hitler's plans. He had hoped to frighten the Greeks to submission by occupying Roumania, Bulgaria and Jugo-Slavia with German mechanised troops. Hitler realised that General Simovitch will not permit

his kingdom to be used as a base for attack on Greece. He, therefore, invaded Jugo-Slavia and has adopted all his familiar methods. He overran Croatia with his troops and has set up a Croatian independent State under a local 'Quisling'. In the meantime, German troops from Bulgaria pushed from the East and the Serbian army was unable to stem the advance of numerous German mechanised divisions from north and west. At the same time, Hungary occupied the territory on the river Drave, which she had ceded to Jugo-Slavia at the end of the last war. In this unscrupulous manner, Yugo-Slavia has been overrun by German troops.

Hitler's main concern in the Balkans is to crush Greece which, from the days of Byron and Navarino, has been pro-British. Besides, the situation of Greece and, especially the islands of Corfu, Cephallenia, and Crete and the town Salonika in the hands of Anglo-Greek force strengthen British position in the Eastern Mediterranean. Hitler, therefore, wants to crush Greece and occupy it. The Anglo-Greek forces are resisting German invasion. As we go to Press, however, Greece has capitulated and the whole of the Balkans is in danger of becoming a German protectorate.

A German-controlled Balkan peninsula is a threat to the Suez and to British position in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is also a menace to the security and independence of Egypt, Turkey, and other Moslem countries in the Middle East. It is a pity that though Turkey and Egypt realise the German danger, they have not so far decided to throw in their lot with Britain and fight the enemy before he comes to knock at the door. One of the causes of Hitler's success has been that small nations, which are now fighting on the side of Britain, took the right step not simultaneously and straightway, but one after another and after a good deal of hesitation. If only they had joined Britain earlier, Hitler would have had to carry war on several fronts and he would have been crushed. But, as it is, his Balkan campaign appears to be a success and it is the victorious British Navy that stands in the way of his next step—the threat to Suez.

ASSAMESE MARRIAGE-SONGS

By MR. MAHESWAR NEOG, B.A.

BIRTH, death and marriage, these three together are counted as the most important, most mysterious, and almost inevitable events of human life. Marriage is a sacred function to the Hindus: it is the earthly celebration of a heavenly union, that has been running down incessantly through a series of lives. The essence of marriage is re-joining together of a man and a woman and making them "one flesh". It is the reality of the union that sanctifies the religious form of marriage. It is this reality that adds perennial beauty to social morality.

Such a pleasant, sacred and vital ceremony must needs cast its halo around. Rich or poor, parents or guardians of the bride and the bridegroom do what they can to serve the gravity and purity and pleasantness of the occasion by entertainments and decorations. Relations scarcely fail to gather up from far and near. Songs and ballads, some running traditionally from generation to generation and others improvised at the spur of the moment, pleasantly envelope the whole ceremony. They provide its finest poetic beauty.

A few persons including some ladies from the groom's house come with presentations to the bride—a complete dress, a set of ornaments, toilets and the such like. Songstresses or *namatis* begin their business by addressing the bride,

You wrote a letter on a betel-leaf;
Ramohandra sends you these ornaments in reply.
Put aside your parents' gifts,
Ram's ornaments are so wonderfully good,
Take them, take them with folded hands.

One by one the things are applied to the bride's body and *namatis* criticise them in good humour and cast light flings upon the envoy. The girl now stands as if resplendent with a new beauty.

Purple beans on the eaves shine with beautiful leaves;

Our darling looks so dazzling
as if of diamonds and pearls is made.

Her fingers are like ten burning candles.

And bracelets enhance their light.

She blooms like a rose behind her dark hair,

Her body all a moon in the midst of all.

A pathetic hint at an imminent parting cannot go too wide of the mark.

Why have you prepared the dish,
that others will enjoy,
Why have you brought up this darling fine,
that now is meant for others?

The following evenings both the bride and the groom are allowed a luxurious bath. For that purpose, the mother or, in her absence, some intimate lady-relation, with a richly decorated pot on her waist, is escorted to the bathing-ghat by *namatis* and drummers. The songs at this stage could not help being reminiscent of child Krishna's playing pranks with the cowherdesses on the black Jumna.

Keteki and *bakul* adorn all the way;
Radha's joy knows no bounds.
The Jumna glimmers at a distance
under the *kadamba* tree;
The black *kanu* is upon it
and may not allow us a drop.

But when the 'golden' pot is filled with water,

Stars cluster in heaven,
Nymphs have their round;
The heavenly drum sounds above
and the earthly one below.

The *namatis* make the Nyads responsible for any delay in getting back with the sacred water. The hero or heroine of the occasion is now ceremoniously taken to a beautifully adorned bathing-place. Oil and herbal toilets are used. But

What are all those toilets for,
A blooming *keteki* as you are?

Every piece of cloth for this beautiful figure is embroidered with dreams of a fairyland.

Bath over, "What should I put on, mother?"
—the darling asks.

"A piece of dress that dries in the shade
and that may be hidden with the palm
of hand."

"What flower is fit for me?"

"Why, the divine flower that blooms across
the sea."

In the evening of the marriage-day, the hero gets his ceremonious bath early and is garmented most luxuriously. He is "plated with gold" and is likened to Krishna preparing to elope with Rukmini of Kundina of ancient Assam or Ram going to Sita's *swayambara*. The bride, too, has her luxuries that conditions of her father and to be father-in-law might allow.

Bouquets of *kanchana* are prepared
that will fit the darling's braid of hair;
For *scuti* and *malati* and all those flowers
fall short of her beauty;
All ornaments are put on her body,
Nothing is but what she wears.

Many tender-hearted girls create a scene
while being brought near the fire of
sacrifice and the very tone of the songs
becomes very touching with the pathos
of separation between bosom friends and
closest relations.

Who was it that played in the darling's room
and scattered *krauncha's* plumes over the
floor?

She that has been brightening the mother's
dark room
will to-day be taken away by Ram.

The usual rites near the fire are solemnised
and the two give themselves, body and
soul, to each other. The bridesmaids
stick all the while to their tunes, that
at this stage oscillate between suffocating
sadness and boisterous invectives against
the groom's party. It is now-a-days a
dying-out custom for groom's party to be
accompanied by *Namatis*. When it was in
vogue and *namatis* on both sides came
together, there used to be a zealous effort
on each side to out-sing the other. The
power of improvisation is seen at its
keenest and ravishing criticism of every-
thing in the opposite party holds sway
for hours together.

The ritual union solemnised, the couple
is taken indoors, the woman leading the
man, who is not spared even at this
moment:

What honey is it that sticks to Darling's garb?—
Honey-thirsty Son-in-law follows her fast,
Our darling leads the way and drops pieces of gold
which the father-in-law's son picks,
a bag of worsted hanging upon his neck.

"The father-in-law's son" has some more
trying minutes when he is harassed by
bridesmaids' sly remarks while performing
'exchange of rings'.

Moments now come with the morning
when the sorrow of separation has its
bitterest ceremony and the glory of the
union is bathed in tears. There seems to
be a feeling of cursedness in a woman's life:

Do not bring up a girl
and make no room for her in the womb.

Do not weep so bitter, sweet girl;
Our hearts are burning with grief,

Had you been a boy,
we never would have known such throes.

The very thought of her so long
moving like an angel of the house
becomes corrosively paining.

You were in your mother's bed yesterday
at this hour of the day;

Now are you leaving us
and have put the wilderness in flame.

In *Shakuntala*, Kalidasa made the whole
hermitage of Kanwa bewep *Shakuntala's*
farewell. The unsophisticated *namatis* swim
in a flood of tears. The little flowering
plant at the gate, the birds and beasts
that were the departing maiden's acquaint-
ances, her loom behind the wall—all
are struck dumb with grief.

These hymeneal songs belong to the
vast and wealthy region of Assamese folk-
literature. They are ingenuous creations
of *namatis*, which designation excludes
almost nobody amongst women and girls,
present on the occasion of a marriage.
As a matter of fact the poetic beauty and
musical sweetness of these songs cannot
be realised until and unless female voices
sing them to the ear—not to speak
of anything worth appreciation in prosaic
renderings like the above. A homely and
unaffected language, laying bare varied raw
feelings, at once knocks at the very heart.
The unlettered mother of these ethereal
creations has rhyme at her back and call;
line follows line in rapid succession as one
idea after another flashes through her
sensitised mind.

Shankardeva and other Vaishnava poets
of sixteenth century Assam have exerted
a deep influence upon these songs. The
whole of Shankardeva's *Rukminiharan*
Kavya may be recited from memory by
many illiterate village women. The homely
tone of its description of Krishna's
marriage with Rukmini makes that poem
appealing to their heart. Similar lively
descriptions by the other poets are also
dearly loved by all women. The romantic
unions between Krishna and Rukmini,
Aniruddha and Usha, Arjuna and Subhadra
Ram and Sita, Shiva and Uma are
perennial fountain-sources of fine ballads.
Sometimes two or three of these stories
are mixed in one; but skilful *namatis*
keep them apart. Modern influences are
not absent, but they are not of permanent
value and die out before long.

MY PET AVERSIONS

BY MR. P. SESHADRI, M.A., M.B.E.

(Principal, Government College, Ajmer)

IF I cannot profess to have risen to the Christian ideal of turning my left cheek to anybody who smites me on the right, or completely realised the



MR. P. SESHADRI, M.A., M.B.E.

Buddhist teaching of conquering hatred with love, I can at least claim to be free from violent animosities. There are not many things which I *hate*, but it is obviously difficult for any human being not to dislike things and persons which meet with his disapproval; though at least in my case, it would be more appropriate to refer to them merely as "pet aversions", to use an effective expression of Frederic Harrison.

Want of punctuality on the part of a person is among the things I hate most,

as I look upon any lapse in the matter as a moral failing. It shows scant consideration for others, and there is no reason why such persons should not be held up to more opprobrium than they seem to be in India. It is only a callous person who can contemplate with equanimity, other people being penalised for their punctuality, made to wait, all because he does not choose to be in time. Obviously, the time of other people is at least as valuable as his and in some cases, perhaps even more so, and it is deplorable that he should be responsible for causing such inconvenience. It gave me immense satisfaction to hear the other day that the services of a professor were dispensed with for being systematically late and telling his Principal that punctuality was after all only the virtue of a commercial people like the English! One of the highest compliments I have received is the remark made at a farewell public meeting, that I was never known to have been late for any engagement.

The bad correspondent is another who always rouses my resentment and I feel like breaking of all relationship with him. It is bad enough in official matters, but it is much worse in private correspondence, where the person at the other end is, perhaps, anxiously expecting a reply to make some necessary arrangements or settle an important matter, your reply being essential for the purpose. The bad correspondent is usually a person who is never guilty of any neglect, let it be noted, as far as his own selfish interests are concerned. Does he wish to ask for

a favour, or is he anxious to gain the goodwill of a person placed above him in life? He becomes one of the most energetic of correspondents and he will take mighty good care to see that he is not guilty of any remissness. It is, of course, not intended to refer to numerous correspondents who pester well-known people with communications of various kinds which are, perhaps, met best with silence.

Among the numerous varieties of bores whom I find it difficult to tolerate is the speaker at a public meeting, who has no sense of proportion or time and who will tire you with his dull and ponderous eloquence. There can be no greater misfortune than to have to sit through a performance of this kind, when even fidgetting and other signs of impatience on the part of the audience will not carry any hint to the lecturer. It is an excellent English saying that nobody had anything valuable to say, which could not be said in fifteen minutes. (It would, however, be a fatal mistake to interpret it literally, for lectures of academic interest must necessarily take longer.)

One who rouses my animosity even more, is the chairman of a public meeting who holds forth longer than the lecturer himself. The person chosen to preside over the meeting owes the honour, probably, to his prominence in social or public life and is never suspected of any special knowledge in the subject. It is absurd to imagine that the audience expects a second dissertation from him, or he can usefully supplement what the specialist-lecturer has said. Chairmen can do no better than follow the example of Lord Rosebery who, when presiding over a meeting of the Edinburgh Philosophical Association, got up when the lecturer had finished and quietly walked up to his car! It was thought that the noble Lord had been absent-minded, but I rather suspect, he meant to give an impressive

demonstration of the duties of the ideal chairman.

But I reserve my most deadly wrath for the cynic who makes himself a nuisance to all right-thinking men. He has no faith in human virtue of any kind and probably sees in everybody around him a reflection of his own petty nature. Nothing is approved by his cruel tongue. If somebody is a philanthropist, it is because he is only hankering for public applause; if there is a successful man, he is certain he owes his success only to luck and not to abilities of any kind—such remarks are his usual stock-in-trade. If a man is praised for his scholarship, he is sure to affirm, with what authority it is difficult to guess, that it is only superficial. The loveliest of human beings does not please his critical eye and there is nothing too sacred to escape his vile and vituperative tongue. He is really a curse to society and there is nothing for which one should pray more fervently than that one should never degenerate into such an unfortunate specimen of humanity.

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Narasimha Mehta: A Gujarati Saint

BY MR. G. A. CHANDAVARKAR, M.A.

— 6 —

THE religious background of the early literature of almost all the Indian languages can be accounted for by the fact that it embodies within itself the noble ideas of seers, sages and saints or the great ideals of philosophers and prophets of those times. It is, however, very unfortunate that the material to write out any authentic biography of any one of these master-minds is exceedingly scanty and even what little of it is available is so mixed up with crude myths or incredible miracles that a critical reader finds it difficult, if not impossible, to shift the chaff from the grain. In this short paper we propose dealing briefly with the work of a Gujarathi Saint, who by his profound thoughts and brave deeds exercised a great influence not only on the Gujarathi society then but also is continuing to do so, even now and that too, on a wider area. The name of that saint is Narasimha Mehta and that, coupled with that of his contemporary *Sadhwee Meerabai*, is today a household word, wherever Vaishnavism or Gujarathi Literature is honoured. Even Mahatma Gandhi, whenever he takes any decisive step in any difficult or critical situation, mainly draws his inspiration from one of the sublimest songs of this saint. To those that are now engaged in doing social service of some kind or other in India, his philosophy of life will be decidedly inspiring and his success in action equally encouraging. While some of his postulates will be found not irreconcilable with those of modern thought, his ideals of life will also be found not impracticable at the present day. These, therefore, deserve a sympathetic study.

HIS EARLY LIFE

At a time when in Gujarath, the Muslim rule was firmly established and some sort of order was evolved out of chaos, various religious sects were propagating their tenets without let or hindrance. The great wave of the Bhakti Movement set in motion by the Vaishnava Saints in Northern India began to sweep over the land of the Gujaratis also.

At the time we are speaking of, at Junagad in Kathiawad, there lived a humble Nagar Brahmin family which was a staunch Shaivayat by faith. In this family Narasimha Mehta was born in 1410 A.D. Early in life he came under the influence of the cult of Krishna Bhakti. But his activities in this direction were very much resented even by his own kith and kin. The ultimate result of this was that in his own home he became a stranger and an undesirable person too. Whatever social amenities of life he could hope for were all denied to him. His own aunt, the queen of the house, did not hesitate to shower filthy abuses on him. He could not, therefore, find solace anywhere except outside his home. For him it could never be 'sweet' at all. Forthwith he left his miserable den and went to Gopinath, a sea-port town, where also the asylum he could find was only a Shiva Temple. In spite of the fact that the environments there were not quite congenial to him, he pursued his religious practices of *Dhyna* and *Tapas*. One happy day a new light dawned on him. In a vision he heard a strange voice calling on him "Go home, Narasee, and cultivate Krishna Bhakti". In response to that great call he wended his way homewards. There as luck would have it, he had to enter the life of a Grahasthee—a householder—, which to him was a good training ground for his future mission in life. Eventually he became the father of two children, a son by name Shamaldas and a daughter by name Kunvara Bai. Poor as he was, the birth of these two children added to his domestic happiness first but later his miseries increased. But "oh! penury could not freeze the genial current of his soul". With implicit faith in God, he looked up to Him in all his difficulties. It is said that on one occasion when a certain religious ceremony was to be performed in the house there was no ghee sufficient for the purpose. He then left his house to fetch it but on the way he chanced to meet a party of

Krishna *Bhaktas*, in whose company he sang songs the whole day and forgot entirely the purpose for which he had left his home. It is then said that some unknown person without his knowledge brought the ghee to his house and the ceremony was gone through. Late in the night he returned home, only to find that the ceremony was gone through and the ghee was supplied by some one. He thought 'who else could he be but Lord Krishna?'. He was once again confirmed in his belief that God comes to the aid of His devotees in times of difficulties. But, as though to facilitate matters in the way of his spiritual progress, domestic calamities befell him in rapid succession. But are the crosses not the ladders that lead to heaven? The cruel hand of death took away both his children one after another. He then said to himself: "The worst has happened. I shall now freely pray Gopal." He then turned over a new leaf in his life.

HIS DEDICATION

Forthwith he started on his perigrinations. Wherever he went he conducted *Haree-Kathas* and invited 'the lowest of the low' to make them drink the *Premamrutam*—Nectar of Love Eternal. *Dheds* and *Chamars* began to realise that the Kingdom of Heaven is not the monopoly of the "Twice-born" alone but it can be shared by all. For him, however, these activities meant social ostracism. He needed it not. He persisted in carrying on the work of their elevation. His whole life was thenceforth dedicated to the cause of those who are now known as 'Harijanas'. But "All human things are subject to decay, and when Fate summons, saints like Monarchs must obey". So, in 1480, A.C., he shook off his mortal coil.

SALIENT FEATURES OF HIS BHAKTI

It is commonly believed that Indian saints are more or less ego-centric and their philosophy of life is individualistic. But Mehta's philosophy gives the lie direct to these accusations. His Bhakti is altruistic. He has definitely preached that service of God and Service of Man are identical and that self-forgetfulness and self-sacrifice are the means to that service. He was a

staunch believer in the great principle of vicariousness. Love for others was his motto:

HIS LITERARY WORK

Although he cannot lay any claim to be a voluminous writer, what little he has written in his books like 'Haramala' is enough to show that his ideals of life are very sublime. One of his famous songs "*Vaishnava Janato Tene Kaheeye . . .*" bears eloquent testimony to this fact. It says: "A true Vaishnava is he who regards the misery of others as his own. When any good turn is rendered none should be conscious of it. None should speak ill of others. No one should be deprived of the possessions. In all our undertakings we should be frank, fearless and seek truth. Vindictiveness should be abandoned altogether." In this one song he gives the quintessence of his teachings.

CONCLUSION

Many of his other songs too are equally soul-stirring. They re-echo the sentiments of saints like Chaitanya, Kabir and Nanak. In the galaxy of Indian saints this star is of no small magnitude. To many a weary sailor on the ocean of life, his has been the guiding star and at least to one of his great admirers of modern times, it has been a veritable *Dhruva-Nakshatra*. In the matter of non-violence, vicariousness and the uplift of Harijans, Mahatma Gandhi seems to have drawn his inspiration from this saint of his province. Being a *Grihastee*, he was "a type of the wise who soar but never roam, true to the kindred points of Heaven and Home". In him emotion and action were not incompatible. These apparently inconsistent propensities sprang from his discontent, that may be called 'divine' also, with the then existing social and religious conditions of Gujaratha. The reason for a large measure of success that attended his efforts was that he showed a rare congruity of his thoughts, deeds and words. While he maintained a balance between action and emotion, he had unbounded faith in the guidance of a Higher Power than Man's. In the possession of these sterling qualities of his head and heart lay the greatness and goodness of this great saint and the father of Gujarathi Literature.

KASHMIR AS A HOLIDAY RESORT

BY MR. S. L. KAUL

FLORID expressions, coloured word pictures and figures of speech appropriate to poetry have been employed by writers on Kashmir to describe its charm. The result is that many of those who have not been to Kashmir and whose knowledge of it is, therefore, derived mainly from the printed words, have before their mind's eye but a beautifully vague picture of what the place actually is. Her hills and valleys, her lakes and springs, her brooks and canals, her trees and flowers against the background of the eternal snows fill even sober and prosaic men with feelings akin to ecstasy. People from the plains who have gone to Kashmir, say in June, have often felt that they have reached an oasis in a desert. But Kashmir is not a phantasy, it is not a dream-land. Even there it is our old mother earth on which we plant our feet. There as elsewhere one can live on bread and butter under some kind of a shelter, and not on fancies and inspirations under the firmament of the heavens. And to reach there, one has to take a modern conveyance on a particular route, and no "magic carpet" of the kind described in fables and tales of old. What the average man of average means or even the comparatively well-off individual desirous of taking a holiday in a hill-station, who has been fascinated by what he has heard in ornate language of the lure of Kashmir, would probably appreciate is a straightforward statement in sober prose of how and when to go there and how to live and what to look for there.

There was a time indeed and that not long ago when a journey to Kashmir was very expensive and tedious. During the last 20 years all that has changed. Two excellent motor roads connect Srinagar with Rawalpindi in the Western Punjab and with Jammu to the north of the Punjab, and both these places are linked with the railways system of India. With the development of lorry traffic in recent years, the 200 miles journey between Rawalpindi and Srinagar can be easily covered in 12 to 16 hours, or if the time required for meals, rest and sleep on the way be included in about 24 hours. Motor cars

have been plying on the road for nearly half a century, but till recent years, a journey by car was beyond the means of most people, while *tongas* covered the journey in four or five days, and even these were expensive. Nowadays, the usual lorry fare from Srinagar to Rawalpindi is Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 per seat which is about one-third to one-fourth of what was paid for a *tonga* seat and one-tenth to one-fifteenth of what was paid for a seat in a motor car only 20 years ago when lorries were first introduced in this part of the world. Motor cars can also be booked for Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 per seat. In time, the journey by lorry costs one-fourth or one-fifth of what was required for a *tonga* formerly with all the differences in other necessary and incidental expenses in the way.

An equally convenient rail-head for Srinagar is Jammu, the winter capital of the State, which is only 25 miles away from Sialkot in the Northern Punjab. This road is also 200 miles long, but unlike the other road which includes 64 miles of British territory, it passes entirely through State territory and connects the two capitals of the State. Its advantage over the Rawalpindi-Srinagar road is the greater loveliness of the scenery that it traverses. The main pass on the road is, however, so high above the sea-level that in winter it is sometimes blocked by snow. But that does not affect its utility in summer and it is in summer that most visitors go to Kashmir. Last year, motor and lorry trips on this road numbered 2,222 and 15,658 respectively. An ideal arrangement is to travel on one of the two roads to Srinagar and to come back by the other. The journey between Jammu and Srinagar is as cheap as that between Rawalpindi and Srinagar, perhaps a little cheaper. It is interesting to note that the Government of Kashmir have had under their consideration a project for a low-level tunnel at the main pass on this road. If the project materialises, the distance will be reduced appreciably, a single day journey without halt at night will become the rule, and the road which is sometimes blocked in winter by snowfall will remain open throughout the year.

Some motor and lorry agencies at Lahore issue return tickets at concession rates, and actually, therefore, visitors have to pay less than the rates cited above for a single journey. Rail cum road journeys are also arranged by agencies like Thomas Cook and Sons. On both the roads there are Dak Bungalows and other convenient resting places and cheap kitchens, where meals generally are or can be made available. Generally visitors leave Jammu or Rawalpindi in the morning and after doing part of the journey halt for the night in the way, and complete the remaining part of the journey on the following day.

Once in Srinagar, the visitor has a variety of arrangements for his board and lodging to choose from. There are hotels and boarding houses, European and Indian, in Srinagar and at Gulmarg and Pahalgam. Many visitors prefer to live in house-boats, which are always available in and near Srinagar. Furnished house-boats of different sizes, ranging from those small enough for a single or a party of 2 or 3 persons to those big enough for a large party with or without kitchen boats and *shikaras* (small boats) are always to be had in Kashmir to suit all tastes. There are many camping grounds and sites for visitors throughout the valley, and tents can always be had on hire; for the people of Srinagar are not slow to take advantage of the rush of visitors into their country. There are several agencies, some under European management, which help the visitors to obtain their requirements ranging from every day articles of food to conveyances. When one has particularly nowhere to go but to enjoy nature at her best, there is nothing like living in a house-boat and moving in water from place to place. And Kashmir probably has about 100 miles of navigable waters. And on the up-lands life under canvas with the crisp invigorating air to breathe has its own prizes to offer.

Most visitors to Kashmir are attracted there by its low temperature. If we take the six months of summer from the middle of April to the middle of October, Srinagar's mean temperature varies from

45° to 80°. The hottest months are June-July and July-August, but even during these months, the highest temperature in shade is 95° and 90° respectively. In May-June and August-September the highest temperature in shade is 85°. Earlier and later in the year, the temperature is lower still. In outlying areas and on higher altitudes in the valley, the temperature is lower still. Kashmir has many an attraction for the visitor during every month from April to November. Even in winter it attracts lovers of winter sports, and Gulmarg the head-quarters of the Ski Club of India, attracts ski-ing enthusiasts on certain days fixed each year by the Club from all over India. Generally visitors prefer to stay from April to June and from September to November in Srinagar. The intervening months are generally spent in beauty spots in the outlying areas. The autumn of Kashmir is specially charming. The Jammu and Kashmir State Exhibition, which is held in the month of September, attracts an increasingly large number of visitors every year. The special attraction of this exhibition consists in the beautifully laid out lawns on the grounds, which mere expense cannot create, and the works of the old arts and craftsmanship of Kashmir for which Kashmir is so famous.

One thing which must recommend Kashmir to men of small means as a holiday resort is the cheap cost of living there. It is true that it is not the place profuse with milk and fruit to be had for nothing that it once was described to be, but one has to pay comparatively less for board and lodging there than in the plains, and it is after all these two things which concern the holiday-seeker most. Those living in house boats can generally make their own arrangement for meals. Many of the boatmen provide boards as well as lodging to their tenants. Self-contained house-boats with kitchens can easily be arranged. Those who travel without servants or cannot make their own cooking arrangements have a number of places in Kashmir to choose from, where arrangements for visitors are always available. Kashmir, indeed, is not to be compared to a hill station—it has a number of hill stations—it is a chain, a

system of beauty spots. In fact, one cannot exhaust Kashmir where every prospect has something or other to recommend it even during a six months' stay.

- The first of the beauty spots for the visitor who proceeds to Srinagar direct is Srinagar itself, which is 5,200 miles above the sea-level. The river Jhelum passes through the city and for those new to Kashmir, few things are more delightful than moving up and down the river in a *shikara* (the indigenous small boat) which is to the Kashmiris what the gondolo is to the Venetian. The boat is a chief means of communication in the city and while it is more comfortable than a wheeled conveyance, it is also cheaper. There are Clubs and Hotels and Boarding Houses and Cinema Halls for Europeans and Indians at Srinagar. There is abundant supply of pure water in the city provided by a network of pipes fed from a reservoir 12 miles away. The city is connected by good motor roads to most places of tourist interest in Kashmir. Making Srinagar his centre, the visitor can visit a number of gardens, health resorts and lakes for which Kashmir is so famous, at no great cost either of time or money.

It may be truly said that the Mughuls discovered Kashmir as a holiday resort. The gardens that they laid out are being maintained by the Kashmir Government. Some of them have been renovated. Two of these gardens, the Nishat Bag and the Shalimar Bag, which can be reached from Srinagar by boat within about two hours and in about half an hour by car are arranged in terraces and with the waters of Lake Dal in the foreground and imposing mountains in the background and cool breezes blowing over them, the gardens with their flower-beds and lawns and cascades and fountains attract numerous visitors every year. Bathing may be enjoyed in ideal surroundings in the lake in front of Nasim Bag which is situated 6 miles from Srinagar on the banks of Lake Dal and the Nagin Bag which is close by. Sailing boats and bathing boats are always available on hire. One of the Mughul gardens the Achhabal, is situated at a distance of about 40 miles from Srinagar. There is a small camping

ground shaded with Chinar trees outside the garden. Among the health resorts, mention may be made of Gulmarg and Pahalgam. The former is famous as a health resort much favoured by Europeans. It is about 8,700 feet above the sea-level. A circular road runs through the hill side and commands a view of the famous Nanga Parbat range and the whole of Kashmir Valley. Higher up are places like Khilanmarg 10,800 feet above sea-level which can be climbed by forest tracks and beauty spots like Affarwat 4,000 feet higher, which has a beautiful blue lake. Ganderbal is a small village on the banks of the Sindh river at a distance of 18 miles from Srinagar and 5,220 feet above the sea-level. Visitors generally stay in boats moored along the river. By road it is half an hour's drive from Srinagar. It is the starting point of excursions to beauty spots like Sonamarg, Baltal, the Zojila mountain, Lake Gangabal and the Harmukh mountains. Pahalgam is situated at a distance of 60 miles from Srinagar at an altitude of about 7,000 feet above the sea-level in the heart of the most beautiful side valley of Kashmir, the Lidder Valley. It has a river fed by two hill streams flowing through it. The road to Pahalgam is suitable for motor and lorry traffic except for a few months in winter. The Government of the State have recently done much to develop this station and in recent years, it has attracted a large number of Indian visitors. Another attraction for visitors is the great Kohahoi glacier, 22 miles away from Pahalgam. The sacred cave of Shree Amar Nath Ji, which attracts pilgrims from all over India, is about 27 miles away from Pahalgam. Gulmarg, Ganderbal and Pahalgam have Post and Telegraph offices, Government Dispensaries and Police Stations. Verinag is about 60 miles from Srinagar and 8,100 feet above the sea-level. It has a large spring in an octagonal basin and an arcade originally built by Jehangir. The water flowing from the spring is one of the principal sources of the river Jhelum. Among the lakes are Dal, nearly 4 miles by $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles with a background of mountain ranges rising 8,000 to 4,000 feet about the level of its surface. The water

is abundantly supplied with wild duck and waterfowl. It is very near Srinagar and is a favourite place for the mooring of house-boats. Wular is 12½ miles long and 5 miles wide and can be reached from Srinagar by river as well as by motor road. It is the largest fresh water lake in India. Manasbal about 16 miles from Srinagar is also accessible both by road and river and is the loveliest of the Kashmir lakes surrounded by majestic hills; its water is blue and clear. The lake is about 2 miles in diameter and boating on its surface under moonlight is a delightful experience.

The ancient monuments of Kashmir dating from the earliest centuries of the Christian era to the fifteenth reflect different periods of the history of Kashmir. The Kashmir Government have a Department of Archeology and Research which preserves its ancient monuments and publishes and introduces to modern scholars systems of thought and philosophy peculiar to Kashmir. It must not be forgotten that Kashmiris are the inheritors of an ancient culture and system of philosophy, "Kashmir Shaivism" which presents a complete synthesis of the most abstract idealism with the most material realism and have much to give to this storm-tossed and doubt-perplexed age. Modern Kashmir has not produced on its own soil any really great men to compare with the giants of the past, either in originality of genius or the power of intellectual assimilation. Strangely enough, the so-called dark ages of history were no dark ages for the people of Kashmir, and it is in these ages that they produced their best philosophers who are among the greatest of India's philosophers and India's greatest book of history, the *Rajatarangini*.

But the Kashmir Valley with its 6,148 square miles and even the province of Kashmir with its 8,555 square miles is not the whole of the Kashmir State. There are a number of health resorts in Jammu, the southern province of the State, chief among which have the advantage of being nearer to the plains than Kashmir. The Indus Valley, with its 68,000 square miles, occupies nearly three-fourths of the area of the State. It has been described as the "Sportman's paradise". A number of

mountaineering expeditions have been to these regions in recent years for exploration. There are vast fields throughout the State for trekking, hiking and camping.

The Government of the State are maintaining a Visitors' Bureau at Srinagar to help and guide visitors in the State. Several seasonal tourist Bureaus, including one at Rawalpindi, have been established to supply information to visitors and afford them all possible advice and guidance for their sojourn in Kashmir. Recently, attention has been directed towards the development of the tourist industry in the State and a Tourist Planning Committee consisting of official and non-official members, with the Chief Secretary as its Chairman, has been appointed for the purpose. The Committee has already done much work. It has improved the Dak Bungalows and Rest Houses on the Jammu-Srinagar road and provided parks and hikers' huts at various places and constructed several fair-weather motor roads. It has before it an ambitious programme of developing places of potential utility for tourist traffic.

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MR. AMERY'S LATEST

By THE EDITOR

— O —

MR. AMERY'S speech in the House of Commons in moving for an extension of the Governors' rule over the Provinces for another year has proved even more disappointing than his previous utterances. If anything, it has made the situation more difficult by its intransigence, and the prospect of resolving the deadlock is now more remote than ever. No wonder that his pronouncement elicited sharp comments in the House of Commons itself at the hands of tried Indian administrators like Sir George Schuster, and in India it has been severely condemned by almost all representative leaders and politicians. As the *Statesman* rightly points out:—

Amazing misunderstanding, complete travesty of the position, policy of drift, attitude of self-complacency; these comments have been agreed to by a number of men of ability, experience of affairs, good standing in their fellows' eyes. They have emerged from deep disappointment. Mr. Amery, say these men, has missed the opportunity of winning public confidence. That, we fear, is the truth. In one respect the Secretary of State has fallen behind the Viceroy who was prepared to go on with the expansion of his Council despite differences that prevented national union.

Unable to make a fresh approach to the problem, he has left it to drift for itself. For, his complacency at the present condition of affairs is really amazing. He harped on the August offer, denounced the Congress, put a premium on minority dictation, though he did not go so far as to acquiesce in Pakistan and threw a cold douche on the well-intentioned efforts of the Sapru Committee. It is ridiculous that a responsible statesman like Mr. Amery should repeat parrot-like the grossly

improper observation of Mr. Jinnah that the Rt. Hon. Sapru was in the hands of Congress "wirepullers". Worse still was the perverse use which Mr. Amery made of the quiet submission of the people to the administration of the Advisers in the Congress Provinces when every one knows it is due to Mahatma Gandhi's constant exhortation to the people not to embarrass the Government at the present juncture, and to the efforts of many others as well who are actively engaged in war propaganda.

Mr. Amery's advice to Dr. Sapru and his colleagues to devote their energies to the formation of a Centre Party is surprisingly strange, especially when he and the Viceroy proclaim from the house-tops from time to time that the greatest obstacle to the grant of self-Government to India is the existence of parties which would not come to an amicable settlement amongst themselves. The formation of another party will still further widen the breach which, in the opinion of many, has already been rendered "unbridgeable".

Let Mr. Amery and his advisers not forget the real cause of all the present trouble. The truth has so often been told by representative leaders of parties even though opposed to each other on other grounds. And that truth is that the people have lost faith in the *bonafides* of the British administrators, "who are unwilling to part with power". The only way out is to restore the lost faith and that can be achieved only by a declaration that India will have Dominion Status

immediately after the war. As proof of this, the authorities should lose no time in taking steps to form a truly National Government at the Centre, release the Ministers and other politicals who are now in prison in the various Provinces and put them back in power. And if this be done, war efforts will greatly be stimulated, the deplorable tension of feeling between the rulers and the ruled, so rightly stressed by the Metropolitan, will soon disappear and an era of peace will be assured.

As we go to Press, it is something to find that the *Times*, which not unoften reflects authoritative and official opinion in England does not share Mr. Amery's self-complacent attitude.

Commenting on its correspondent's analysis of the situation, it owns "that the continuance of the Indian constitutional deadlock is causing concern in England and a sense of frustration in India". It rightly deplures "that the present unsatisfactory situation should not be allowed to crystallize." We welcome even this belated wisdom. For, it is yet possible to do something to bridge the gulf that is widening with every repeated assertion of the August offer and the insistence on the fulfilment of impossible conditions.

It is time, says the paper truly, that a new approach should be made. If those responsible for this drift cannot make this new approach, it is time they give place to those who can.

Hindu Women's Rights to Property

RECENT JUDGMENT OF THE FEDERAL COURT

BY MR. S. RAMASWAMI IYER

(Advocate, Madras)

IN view of the great attention which the subject of Hindu women's rights to property has attracted in recent times, a brief article explaining the recent decision of the Federal Court at Delhi on the subject may not be out of place even in a layman's journal. The decision of the Federal Court related to the validity or otherwise of the Hindu Women's Rights to Property Act, 1937. This Act became law on 14th April 1937 and was amended in certain particulars by an Act of 1938 to make verbal improvements in it. It enacted that if a Hindu died intestate leaving separate property, his widow, or if there were more than one widow, the widows together would be entitled

to the same share as his son. If a Hindu governed by any other school of Hindu law than the Dayabagh law, say, a Hindu in Madras, died leaving not separate properties but an interest in joint family property, the Act declared that his widow would be entitled to the same interest as he himself had. Therefore if he died leaving a brother and a son who were members of a joint family, his widow would have a right to get one-fourth share of the property of the family. The right of a widow under the Act would not be an absolute right but only a limited estate under the Hindu law. This is the effect of the Act. The Bill which became the Act of 1937 above referred to was sponsored by

Dr. Dashrath, M.L.A. He brought up another Bill for conferring rights on daughters of deceased Hindu fathers. At this stage the Government of India took up the matter to avoid piecemeal legislation and appointed a Committee to make recommendations on the whole subject of Hindu Women's Rights to Property. The Chairman of this Committee is Sir B. N. Rao, I.O.S., a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, whose name is well known in Madras. This Committee appears to have felt doubts about the validity of the above Act of 1937, and at its instance the Government of India made a reference to the Federal Court to obtain its opinion on certain points of law. The most important of these questions was whether the above Act as amended in 1938 was valid in so far as it affects the devolution of agricultural land. The question arises because under the Government of India Act, 1935, the legislative spheres of federal and provincial legislatures are exclusive and "devolution of agricultural land" is exclusively a provincial subject. The Federal Court has now held that the Central Legislature had no power to pass the Act in so far as it regulates devolution by survivorship or succession in respect of agricultural land. Therefore the Act has turned out to be useless in respect of a large and the most usual class of property in which Hindu widow's rights should be secured. Another point referred to the Federal Court was whether even if agricultural land was excluded, the Central Legislature had power to legislate on devolution by survivorship in respect of any property. Under the Government of India Act, 1935, the Central Legislature has power to legislate on "succession save as regards agricultural land". The

doubt was whether the word "succession" includes devolution by survivorship. The Federal Court has held that it does in this context and the Act is therefore valid in this respect. The Act of 1937 became law on 14-4-1937, i.e., after 1st April 1937 when the Government of India Act, 1935, came into force. If the Act was passed before the latter Act came into force, it would be fully valid as the sharp division of provincial and federal spheres of legislation was not known to the earlier Constitution Act then in force. The Federal Court has held that the mere fact that the Act of 1937 was passed by the Lower House before 1st April 1937 will not take away the operation by the new Constitution Act over it. Thus the result of this recent decision is that Hindu widows cannot have the benefit of the Act in respect of cash, movable and immovable property except agricultural land in the provinces.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

By "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

Mr. Jinnah misleads the Muslim League

THE Madras Session of the Muslim League gave Mr. Jinnah yet another opportunity to make the most of himself and his League. With a keen sense of the dramatic but with utter lack of humour, he claimed for the League a position analogous to the Grand Moghul. Of its achievements he said unblushingly that nothing better was done "since the fall of the Moghul Empire". That is thoroughly characteristic of the man. Mr. Jinnah spent over two hours denouncing all and sundry. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru is a "political orphan". "One obsession about Sir T. B. Sapru" said Mr. Jinnah, "was that he regarded himself as a man of supreme intellect who alone could rescue the country in the event of a supreme danger." This is unbeatable as a piece of downright self-portraiture. The Maha Sabha was an "incurable and hopeless organisation". And, of course, no word is strong enough to condemn the Congress which was "waiting for the war to break out, "to wrench power from the British Government to crush the Muslims and the Minorities". And

satyagraha is a weapon of coercion—and black mailing the British who are, in a tight corner, to surrender and concede the Congress demand The Muslims know that if the Congress demand is conceded it will mean complete destruction of the Muslims.

This is thoroughly mischievous. Was there ever such a travesty of facts and reason? Surely, Mr. Jinnah could have shown more respect to his Islamic audience than this scant regard for their common sense.

And what was the purpose of his two-hour harangue? To divide and dissect the country into a number of independent principalities.

The goal of the All-India Muslim League was to establish completely independent States in the north, west and eastern zones of India with full control over finance, defence and foreign affairs, communications, currency, exchange, etc.

Not content with Pakistan, Mr. Jinnah throws a bait to other communalists, and a separate Dravidistan is offered to the foolish fly to come into his parlour. It is astonishing that at a time when the danger to small nations is so evident, sensible people should be found to listen to this suicidal counsel. Yet it was the same Mr. Jinnah who proved himself a stalwart nationalist and a downright opponent of communalism in any shape or form. Admirers of Mr. Jinnah prefer to remember his uncompromising words in the Central Assembly:

I stand here with a clear conscience and I say that I am a nationalist first, a nationalist second and a nationalist last. Whether you are a Musselman or a Hindu, for God's sake do not import the discussion of communal matters into this House which we desire should become a real national parliament and set an example to the outside world.

Forgetting his own past, Mr. Jinnah has now chosen to set a different example by his new gospel of disintegration.

His Pakistan, if left unchecked, is likely to develop into a great menace. No one knows what it means. And it is not the public only that is ignorant of the details of the scheme. Mr. Jinnah himself is not sure of his own mind and no two members of the League have the same notion of what is meant by the slogan—Pakistan or Death.

The Late Maharaja of Cochin

The passing of H. H. Sir Sri Rama Varma of Cochin at the great age of 90 removes a benevolent and kindly ruler from the sphere of his labours. His Highness succeeded to the *gadi* in March 1932 and had endeared himself to his people by his learning and simplicity and deep religious faith. The most notable feature of his regime was the inauguration of a scheme of reforms devised by his able Dewan Sir Shanmukham Chetty, by which certain departments are entrusted to the care of a popular Minister nominated from among the elected members of the Cochin Legislative Council.

Prince Kerala Varma, the Elaya Raja, who now succeeds to the throne in his 77th year, is reputed to be a good scholar and physician of no mean standing. In full accord with the traditions of the Royal House of Cochin, His Highness lives a simple and austere life and has shown marked interest in many schemes of welfare work.

The Metropolitan's Warning

Dr. Foss Westcott, Metropolitan of India, in a statement to the Press points out that satyagraha is not being offered because Nazism and the principles for which it stands is approved of, but because the employment of force to restrain evil is regarded as wrong, and Indian opinion was not consulted before this step was taken.

While recognising that, under the existing form of Government, the declaration of war was legitimate, I, with many others, regret it was not found possible in some way to consult India.

In truly Christian spirit, Dr. Westcott calls on his fellow-countrymen in India to help cement the Indo-British connection.

We seem to have reached a stage when the long connexion between Britain and India is in danger of being dissolved in a flood of mutual recrimination and misunderstanding.

Surely, we as citizens of a free country, who are fighting for the maintenance of freedom, recognise the right of Indians to determine their own future position.

Dr. Tagore's Birthday Message

Dr. Rabindranath Tagore was the recipient of numerous messages of congratulation from far and near on the occasion of his 80th birthday. As poet and sage, Tagore holds a unique position among the celebrities of our time, and his birthday message, couched in words of ringing eloquence, is a timely call to India and the world to retrace the path of glory we have lost. Analysing his own experiences, Dr. Tagore speaking at Santiniketan recalled how in his earlier days he was an admirer of the British people. The bitter experience of later years has made him revise many of his old opinions.

The poet felt that the blackest evils that had come in the wake of British administration was much more than the rulers' neglect and apathy to provide the minimum amenities of civilised existence. Their failure was nowhere more apparent than in the way in which they had "contrived to divide Indians among themselves".

The pity of it all lay in the fact that now, perhaps, they wanted to lay the blame at the door of Indian society.

This culmination of Indian history would never have been possible if communalism and provincialism and lack of mutual faith were not sedulously encouraged to grow to their present vicious form by some secret conclave holding the highest responsibilities in the system of administration.

Making a comparative study of Indians along with other Asiatic nations, Dr. Tagore held that we are in no way inferior to the Japanese, either in intellect or capacity. "But our rulers have established what they call the Government of 'law and order', or in other words a policeman's administration. It is now no longer possible for us to retain any respect for the mockery civilisation which believes in ruling by force and has no faith in freedom at all.

By their miserly denial of all that is best in their civilisation by withholding true human relationship from Indians, the English have effectively closed for us all paths to progress.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

Mr. Churchill's Tonic Broadcast

"In order to win this war, Hitler must either conquer this Island by invasion or cut the ocean life-line which joins us with the United States," said Mr. Winston Churchill broadcasting to the Empire. He continued:

Never in our long history have we been held in such admiration and regard across the Atlantic sea. In the long run, the action of the United States will be dictated, not by methodical calculations of profit and loss but by moral sentiments.

Referring to the Balkans, the Prime Minister said:

In mortal peril, Greece turned to us for succour, and we could not say them nay. There are rules against that kind of thing and to break them would be fatal to our honour, to the honour of the British Empire without which we could neither hope nor deserve to win.

It happened that divisions available best suited for the task in Greece were from New Zealand and Australia and only about half the troops who took part come from the mother country. German propaganda is trying to make bad blood between Britain and Australia over this, but I shall leave it to Australia to deal with.

We must now expect war in the Mediterranean to become more fierce, varied and wide-spread. He said:

Nothing that is happening now is comparable in gravity to what we passed through last year. Nothing that can happen in the East is comparable with what is happening in the West.

Germans in Egypt

The Egyptian frontier was crossed at several points in the Sollum area by the enemy with whom British light forces remained in contact, harassing advance.

The crossing of the Egyptian frontier by the Axis forces was made by two motorised columns, believed to be largely composed of Italians. They advanced eastward, south of the escarpment which runs to the sea at Sollum.

Spanish Intervention

It is learnt, as we go to Press, that Senor Sener, the Spanish Foreign Minister, is making preparations to declare Spain openly on the side of the Axis.

It is revealed that an attack on Gibraltar will be made in the first place by the Spaniards only, but that Germany will declare herself bound by the Tripartite Pact to go to their aid.

German troops are already reported to be concentrated both in the Bayonne area and at several points in the Pyrenees.

The United States Ambassador in Madrid has warned Sener that the United States would regard any move towards Spanish belligerence with the deepest disapproval and would take whatever measures seemed necessary, including possible despatch of United States warships to African waters.

The Negus in Addis Ababa

Green, gold and red emblazoned with the Lion of Judah, the flag of Haile Selassie flutters again at the masthead of Parliament House in Addis Ababa. The officer commanding the Imperial troops addressed representatives of the leading races of Abyssinia before the ceremonial hoisting of the flag. The ceremony was held at the old Parliament House of the Emperor Mendiak standing on the summit of one of the city's seven hills.

A proclamation signed by the Emperor in the heart of the Gojjam mountains on March 17, was read empowering the British Commanders in consultation with Abyssinian leaders to issue notices relating to the prosecution of the war.

Soviet-Jap Neutrality Pact

A Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact was signed at Moscow on April 13.

Under Article 1 of the Russo-Japanese Neutrality Pact, the two parties agree to maintain peaceful and friendly relations between them and to respect each other's territorial integrity and inviolability.

Article 2 provides that in case either party becomes the object of military action by one or more third parties, the other party shall observe neutrality throughout the entire period of such a conflict.

Article 3 provides that the Pact shall come into force from the day of completion of ratification by both parties and shall remain in force for 5 years, after which it will be automatically prolonged for 5 years, unless one of the parties gives notice to abrogate one year before its expiration.

Article 4 provides for the ratification as soon as possible and exchange of ratification documents at Tokio.

A joint declaration issued at the same time as the signature says that Japan respects the territorial integrity and inviolability of the peoples of the Republic of Mongolia, while the Soviet Union respects the territorial integrity and inviolability of the Empire of Manchukuo.

U. S. and the War

President Roosevelt stated that United States' Warships may enter combat zones if necessary in the interests of the defence of the Western Hemisphere.

The probability of a German-American clash as a result of the extension of the United States ocean patrol system is foreseen by the influential Tokyo newspaper:

If the United States intends to use the patrol or convoy system, there are many dangers. In view of the large theatre of German blockade operations against Britain with submarines, aeroplanes and warships, the probability of a clash with American warships is great.

The Pope's Easter Appeal

The Pope appealed to the belligerents to refrain from using ever more deadly instruments of war in an Easter broadcast to the world on Sunday the 15th April. The Pope said:

Would that all belligerents, who have human hearts, feel pity for the sufferings of the civil population, for the unmarried women and children, for the sick and aged, often exposed to greater dangers of war than soldiers at the front. We supplicate all belligerents to refrain from using ever more deadly instruments of war. Every new weapon of war inevitably results in a counter weapon on the part of the adversary of even greater effectiveness. Already to-day one must lament the fact that repeatedly limits have been exceeded of what might be permissible in a just war. Would not an increasing embitterment in the use of the means of attack soon transform war into an inconceivable horror? Let us pray for peace for all, not a peace of oppression and destruction of nations, but for a peace which, guaranteeing the honour of all nations, may satisfy their vital necessities and the legitimate rights of all. To our prayers to God, we have always added our labours.

Gen. Smuts on the War

"Germany is winning victories, but she is losing the war," declared General J. C. Smuts, Premier of South Africa, in a broadcast from Capetown, in which he emphasised that the enemy's successful diversions in the Balkans were only mere incidents compared with the fundamental issue of the Battle of Britain.

If Britain and her sea power survive the attack Hitler has lost the war and not even the prospect of a stalemate will be left to him. That is the crux of the war—the truth which dominates everything else. In spite of his spectacular diversions in various parts of Europe, Hitler has so far failed to face this real issue. When he does face up to that issue, he will be up against his real fate and if he flunks it, he is equally lost.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

April 1. Nazi ultimatum to Yugoslavia.

—Asmara, capital of Eritrea is captured by British and Indian forces.

April 2. Cordell Hull rejects German and Italian demands for the release of seized Axis ships.

—Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit is released.

April 3. U. S. demands recall of Italian Naval attaché.

—Count Teleki, Hungarian Premier, commits suicide.

April 4. Coup d'état in Iraq.

—British troops evacuate Benghazi.

April 5. Text of Sapru memorandum to the Viceroy is published.

—German invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece.

April 6. Addis Ababa falls.

—Soviet-Yugoslavia Pact is signed.

April 7. Viceroy meets Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru for discussion of Bombay Conference resolution.

—Sir Kingsley Wood presents fresh taxation proposals.

April 8. President Roosevelt assures King Peter of Yugoslavia all possible aid.

April 9. Mr. Churchill praises the exploits of Indian troops in Africa.

—British troops occupy Massawa.

April 10. U. S. establishes air bases in Greenland.

—Germans proclaim new Croate State.

April 11. President Roosevelt re-opens the Red Sea to American shipping.

—British troops establish contact with Nazis in Greece.

April 12. Hungary invades Yugoslavia.

—Muslim League meets at Madras, Mr. M. A. Jinnah presiding.

April 13. The Maharaja of Cochin is dead.

—Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact is signed.

April 14. Mr. Jinnah, presiding over the Muslim League in Madras, denounces Congress and reiterates Pakistan.

—Dr. Tagore's birthday is celebrated.

April 15. Russia informs Marshal Chiang that her policy of aid to China is not affected by her pact with Japan.

April 16. Earthquake in Mexico.

—London severely bombed by the Luftwaffe.

April 17. Greeks evacuate Albania.

—Severe fighting in Greece.

April 18. British warning against bombing of Athens and Cairo.

—R. A. F. batters Berlin.

April 19. France withdraws from the League.

—Greek Premier commits suicide.

April 20. Dr. Rajendra Prasad replies to Mr. Jinnah's demand for Pakistan.

—Riot in Ahmedabad.

April 21. Gandhiji reaffirms his faith in non-violence and refuses to call off civil disobedience.

April 22. Mr. Amery moves resolution in the Commons to extend the Governors' rule by another year.

April 23. Greek army surrenders.

—Allies resist Nazi advance.

April 24. Axis-Greece Armistice signed. Col. Knox declares that U. S. will convoy ships to Britain.

April 25. Communal disturbances in Bombay. Police open fire.

—President Roosevelt criticises appeasers.

April 26. Axis forces cross Egyptian frontier.

April 27. Germans enter Athens.

—Italians defeated at Deale.

April 28. Sollum is in enemy hands. Col. Lindberg resigns Air Corps Commission.

April 29. Report of riots in three North Indian cities.

—Sapru Committee replies to Mr. Amery.

April 30. The U. S. warns Vichy to remain neutral.

—German-Spanish negotiations; threat to Gibraltar.

The WORLD of BOOKS

THE DECLINE OF RELIGION. By C. P. Martin.
George Allen & Unwin. Price 10sh. 6d.

Dr. Martin's analysis of the causes for the decline of religion, and his able plea for the defence and revival of the Christian faith, is a very timely publication. Official Christianity no longer cuts the ice in the modern world. Religions specially of the denominational variety seem to have no future at all.

Dr. Martin, the Professor of Anatomy that he is, has not failed to take note of the invaluable help science has rendered mankind, nor the unbridgeable limitation from which it suffers. He laments for the attitude that has made science the monopoly of human reason. He holds the view that the triumphs of science should not blind us into the belief that its reportings are the only truths that Reality has. There are regions other than the physical, which science can never hope to treat in a satisfactory manner. Such realms belong to the region of Faith.

Religion is an entirely autonomous realm with a mystic tendency. Unique events and specific disclosures by the Divine are characteristics of genuine religion. Such incidents can never be explained in terms of scientific categories. The two chapters in the book under the heads: "Science" and "the Basis of Reasoning" are very well written and they deserve the attention of every unrepentant rationalist, who sets a great store by science. Dr. Martin gives the lie direct to the statement that "what science cannot teach mankind cannot know".

One would have liked Dr. Martin to draw bolder and more general conclusions than those derived by him. His premises warrant more than he has chosen to infer. He concludes the book with the note of a sincere Fundamentalist of the Christian faith. "Christ is the Light of the world; and that beside Him there is no other." The first part of the statement is a great truth; and the second is the cause of all other troubles. The refreshing candour and originality of the book ensures the book a warm welcome in liberal evangelical circles.

THE ENGLISH NURSERY SCHOOL. By A. F. M. Abdul Haq, M.A. Published by the General Printers and Publishers Ltd., Dharamtolla Street, Calcutta. Price Rs. 2.

This book provides much useful and reliable information regarding the Nursery School Education in England, collected first-hand by the author during his tour in England in 1938. The author gives a brief retrospect of the Nursery School system from the starting of Owen's Infant School in 1816 in Scotland, dwells on the necessity for nursery schools, gives in detail the aims and functions of such schools and the day's programme of life and activities from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. in such a school and ends up by supplying details of buildings and equipment required to start a nursery school. The Appendices contain a syllabus for nursery schools in India, a time-table and budgets for such schools as suggested by the All-India Women's Conference. An invaluable book on Child Education for India.

THE VIJNANA NIPANA By Padmapadaacharya.

Edited by H. S. S. M. M. A. D. D. D.
Senate House, Allahabad.

This first volume of the Sanskrit publications of the Allahabad University is a rare work and has not been as well known as it should be, although the author's name appears in "the 'Digvijaya' of Sankara, and he himself was the first Acharya of the Puri Govardhana Mutt and was recognised as an authority both on Vedanta and Tantra.

The work belongs to the Advaita School of Sankara. The publication has also an unusual feature, namely, a summary of the book for those who cannot comprehend the original. In addition to the usual technique for the annihilation of Karma, this treatise discourses at length on two methods, namely, the method of inaction and the method of action without a desire for results. Having established the difference between Sanohita Karma and Prarabdh Karma, and the several modes of overcoming such Karma, the book terminates with a vindication of Vaishnavite practices like the worship of the Saligrama, the fasting on Ekadasi days, and the utilisation of Tulasi and Aswatha as aids to worship.

There is the usual discussion as to the methods for the purification of the mind, including the repeating of the Pranava and the reciting of the Purushasuktha and Iswaraasuktha. In the true tradition of Hindu Bakthi, Padmapada also extols the consecration of Siva's Jyothirlinga as a means of obtaining liberation on the part of those who cannot practice Yoga. Whilst dilating on the Gnana Yoga, the treatise realises the limitation of human faculties, and describes the ladders by which humanity has to rise to the Absolute.

PREPARATION AND CITIZENSHIP By Sophia Wadia. International Book House, Bombay. Price Rs. 1.

This little book consists of three lectures delivered at the Mysore University in 1937 and published in the pages of the *Aryan Path* during 1940. They are provided with a Foreword by Rabindranath Tagore. The first lecture entitled, "Democracy—A Spiritual Principle," attributes the failure of European democracy to its lack of a spiritual basis, which may be found in the Upanishads and the Bhagavad-gita of the Hindus. The second lecture, which treats of the duty of the citizen, is so to discipline himself in the earning of his livelihood as to present his mental and moral worth for the benefit of the State. The third lecture shows how in all ways the recognition of a spiritual basis alters the complexion of the business of a State. The greatest value of these lectures is, perhaps, in the effort to base the conceptions of State, citizen and democracy on the highest philosophical books of the Hindus.

STUDIES IN INTERNATIONAL LAW. By R. K. Gupta. Kitab Mahal, Allahabad.

The author has to be congratulated on bringing out, perhaps, the smallest book on the subject. The book does not pretend to contain an exhaustive analysis, but is an attempt to acquaint the reader with the main principles and is sure to meet the demands of the student appearing for an examination. The author has dealt with the principal topics in an analytical manner and has also extracted the opinions of eminent jurists. Although there is no discussion of many of the intricate problems, the author has given sufficient materials to provoke in any general reader a desire to understand the subject further.

THE TRAVANCORE TRIBES AND CASTES, THE ABORIGINES OF TRAVANCORE, VOL. III. By L. A. Krishna Iyer, Officer in charge of Ethnographic Survey, Trivandrum, 1941.

The primitive tribes of Travancore display an increasing diminution of animism as their creed and a growing infusion of foreign blood and new ideas. On the basis of a careful analysis of anthropometric data, short stature, low forehead, flat nose and dark complexion are held to be the characteristic features of these primitive tribes. Our author cleverly examines the origins of these tribes according to the light shed by anthropometry and detects the existence of a *Negrito* strain in some of them, and of a *proto-Australoid* element in some others. The megalithic monuments

discovered in the High Ranges of the State is held to indicate a loss of culture from the past. The enforcement of exogamy among these tribes, groups being strictly exogamous within each tribe, exists along with the classificatory system of relationship. Monogamy is widely prevalent, fraternal polyandry has survived to some extent, and the *levirate* and the *sororate* exist in a complementary manner among several tribes. The prevailing taboos are examined, as well as the religious and funeral customs and the effect of the impact of superior culture on the solidity of tribal life. As R. R. Marret has observed in his Foreword to the work, the author has ably succeeded in imparting to his scientific study elements of sympathy and breadth of outlook.

BOOKS RECEIVED

— 10 —

SIXTH CHREMONIES. By Sirdar Sir Jogendra Singh. With an Introduction by Raja Sir Daljeet Singh. International Book House, Bombay.

PENOLOGY IN INDIA. The Indian Publications Ltd., Fort, Bombay.

VIEWS AND REVIEWS. By Sri Aurobindo. Sri Aurobindo Library, 12, Kondi Chetti Street, George Town, Madras.

THE FUTURE OF INDIA. By Sisir Kumar Mitra. Sri Aurobindo Library, Madras.

LECTURES ON JURISPRUDENCE. By K. R. R. Sastri and Ram Kishore Gupta. Kitabistan, Allahabad.

ANNIE BESANT: AS WOMAN AND LEADER. Reminiscences of Sri Prakash. The Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, Madras.

THE NEW WORLD ORDER SCHEME No. 1. By C. Parameshwar Pillai, Pt. Omprakash Sastri. Vedic Ashram, Lahore.

SRI MOOKA PANDURANGI. Text in Devanagari and Translation in Tamil. Published by D. Balasubrahmanya Iyer. B. G. Paul & Co., Madras.

PARAMOUNTY AND STATE SUBJECTS. By K. R. R. Sastri, M.A., B.L. (Kirti Mandir, Lecture) Baroda.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH OF THE ARMY IN INDIA, 1939. Statistics Vol. II. Part II. Manager of Publications, New Delhi.

AN INQUIRY INTO MEANING AND TRUTH. By Bertrand Russell. George Allen & Unwin.

THE PROBLEMS OF LOGIC. By Andrew Zel Ushenko. George Allen & Unwin.

VEERASHAIVA WEITANOHANUNG. By Shri Kumbha Swamiji, B.A. Published by V. R. Koppal, M.A. Navakalyanamath, Dharmwar.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING IN INDIA. Manager of Publications, New Delhi.

ASRAMAS: Past and Present. By P. Chenchiah, V. Chakkara, and A. N. Sudarshanam. Indian Christian Book Club, Kilpauk, Madras.

MODERN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. Edited by Prof. Baljit Singh. Bulletin No. 1, Economics Club, D. A. V. College, Cawnpore.

THE SYMBOL THAT SPEAKS. By Kison Chandra Masumdar. Arthur Stockwell Ltd., 29, Ludgate Hill, E.C. 4.

TALES OF PRACOCK. By Hilda Seligman. Bodley Head, London.

RADIO RECEPTION IN THEORY AND PRACTICE. By V. K. Saksona. Industry Publishers, Calcutta.

BENGAL SWEETS. By Mrs. J. Haldar. Industry Publishers Ltd. Calcutta.

LASUBHAI SAMALDAS. By S. Natarajan. Yeshanand Publications Ltd., Hornby Road, Bombay.

INDIAN STATES

Hyderabad

PUBLIC UTILITY WELFARE

A sum of Rs. 84 lakhs was spent by the Court of Wards on the public utility and welfare works according to the annual administration report of the Court of Wards Department for the year 1939. The main items of the work undertaken were the construction of civil dispensaries, provision of wells, restoration of tanks and the construction of primary schools. The Court of Wards at present maintains 126 schools where 6,298 pupils are receiving instructions.

At the beginning of the year there were 45 estates under the management of the Court of Wards, but in the latter part of the year two estates were released.

DEATH OF NIZAM'S MOTHER

It is with regret that we record the death of the mother of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, on the morning of the 14th instant. His Exalted Highness, in a moving funeral oration, said that she proved herself not only his own mother but the mother of all the people in the State.

HYDERABAD DOCTOR HONOURED

The Syndicate of the Calcutta University has decided to admit Dr. S. Raghavendra Rao, of the Hyderabad State Medical Service, to the degree of Doctor of Science of Public Health. This is the first time the University has awarded this degree to any candidate.

HYDERABAD CHAMBER

At the recent annual general meeting of the Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce, Khan Bahadur Ahmed Alladin was elected Chairman for the third successive year. Raja Panisai Gitty was elected Vice-Chairman.

Mysore

AGRICULTURAL FEATURES

The Agricultural Department has helped the Mysore raiyat to earn more and spend more. The efforts of this Department in evolving improved strains by scientific methods of plant-breeding and later trying the laboratory results in raiyats' holdings, in order to introduce them into general cultivation, have been attended with marked success, thus improving the economic condition of the Mysore raiyat.

With the rapid growth of several industries in the State, the Department has encouraged the raiyat to grow useful economic plants in order to make his fields yield more. Sugarcane cultivation has become a by-word for prosperity in Mandya. The establishment of the sugar industry has brought in an increased income to millions of agriculturists spread over a wide area in the State. The Irwin Canal, the principal water source, is designed to irrigate 120,000 acres, so that wet crops such as rice and semi-wet crops such as sugar-cane can be grown. Experiments in the cultivation of sugar-cane have resulted in the evolution of better varieties of cane, and several canes far superior to the existing varieties are under bulk multiplication.

MYSOREAN HONOURED

On Sunday the 6th. April, a distinguished Son of Mysore, Dewan Bahadur K. Ramaswamy of Bombay, was honoured on the conferment of the title of "Rajakarya Prasakta" by H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore. Sir Mirza Ismail, the Dewan of Mysore, who unveiled his portrait at the Maternity Home gifted by the Dewan Bahadur, paid a graceful tribute to the benefactor.

Baroda

BARODA AND THE WAR

Sir V. T. Krishnamachariar, Dewan of Baroda, presiding over the second session of the Baroda State Legislative Assembly for the current year, observed:

"We are all following the course of the war with keen and anxious interest. Coming to our own war efforts, His Highness the Maharaja's second donation of \$50,000 has been devoted to an object directly connected with the defence of India and applied to the purchase of a trawler for mine-sweeping and submarine detection purposes for the Royal Indian Navy to be named 'Baroda'. The second infantry continues to be on war duty and the training of the mechanical transport sections is in progress.

ECONOMIC LEGISLATION

The following is a brief summary of the operation of economic legislation in the State during the year 1939-40:—

1. There are three protective laws in force in the State concerning agriculturists.
 - i. The Rent Regulation Act.
 - ii. The Debt Conciliation Act, and
 - iii. Backward Classes Khata Land Protection Act.

2. The Rent Regulation Act has been in operation in Baroda and Navsari districts. It is applied to specified backward communities.

3. The debt Conciliation Act has been applied to 14 talukas of the State.

4. The Debt Conciliation Boards dealt with 861 cases in 1939-40. The Act is to be extended to all areas covered by the operations of land mortgage banks.

5. The Backward Classes Khata Land Protection Act is applied to 8 talukas. The Baniparaj people have been particularly benefited by the operation of the Act.

Travancore

TRAVANCORE DEWAN IN COCHIN

The need for various divisions of the Hindu-fold rallying together under a common banner and organising and consolidating their energies on healthy lines for the mutual benefit and for the progress and prosperity of the country at large was stressed by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Dewan of Travancore, in his reply to a deputation of Eshavas, which waited upon him at Ram Mohan Palace, Cochin.

Sir Ramaswami Aiyar brought home to the deputationists how the two States of Travancore and Cochin, with common traditions, cultural heritage and aspirations, stood to gain by collaborating with each other.

TRIVANDRUM X-RAY INSTITUTE

The King George Fifth Silver Jubilee Memorial X-Ray Institute and Radium Institute of the General Hospital, Trivandrum, was opened by the Dewan of Travancore, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, on March 10.

The Institutes are financed from Travancore's share of the King George Fifth Silver Jubilee Memorial Fund.

TRAVANCORE RULER'S GIFT TO R.A.F.

Lord Beaverbrook, Minister for Aircraft Production, acknowledges with gratitude the gift of £11,250 from the Maharaja of Travancore for the purchase of two Spitfires which will be named 'Travancore I and II.'

TRAVANCORE UNIVERSITY

The Calcutta and Allahabad Universities have recognised the degrees and diplomas of the University of Travancore on a basis of reciprocity.

Cochin

THE COCHIN PORT

Sir B. K. Shampukham Chetti, the Dewan of Cochin, unveiled, on March 5, in the Administration Block, Willingdon Island, a memorial tablet marking the completion of the Cochin Harbour works, in the presence of the representatives of the Madras and Travancore Governments, the Cochin Chamber of Commerce and the various shipping and commercial interests concerned.

Sir Robert Bristow, C.I.E., the Administrative Officer and Harbour Engineering-in-Chief, gave a brief resume of the progress of the Cochin Harbour Works from the inception. So far the outlay on the great project came to Rs. 192 lakhs and with the aerodrome work which was now in progress, the expenditure would be over Rs. 2 crores. In twenty years the trade of the Port had risen from 400,000 tons to 800,000 tons.

Kashmir

HARIJANS IN TEMPLES

About 2,000 Harijans of Ranbirsinghpore (Jammu), who had declared that they would leave the Hindu fold, have been prevailed upon by leaders of the Arya Samaj and Hindu-Sikh Naujawan Sabha, Jammu, to give up the idea.

The leaders, it is further understood, assured them that their grievances in respect of social, religious and civic rights would be removed.

His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir has already thrown open all temples and public wells to Harijans in the State and provided a number of other facilities for them.

NEW LAW IN JAMMU

On April 3, the State Assembly of Kashmir and Jammu passed into law a Bill to abolish polyandrous marriages among Buddhists.

Udaipur

BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

On the auspicious occasion of the birthday of His Highness the Maharana Sahib, three announcements are made. In the first notification announcement is made of the desire of His Highness to establish a Legislative Assembly with a large elective element. The Government will shortly appoint a Committee to draw up a scheme to give effect to His Highness' wishes. Order has also been passed to abolish Batawali tax. The third notification refers to the removal of the ban hitherto imposed on the Mewar Praja Mandal subject to the Society being registered under the Mewar Societies Act as soon as it is passed into law.

Indore

RECRUITING IN INDORE STATE

In accordance with the expressed wishes of His Highness the Maharaja Holkar that the war activities of the State should be increased and that the army should be further strengthened, recruiting to His Highness' Army is now open to able-bodied men from among Dhangars, Marathas, Brahmins, Thakurs, Rajputs, Ahirs, Jats, Gujars, Sikhs and Mussalmans.

Nabha

H. H. MAHARAJA PRATAP SINGH

An investiture darbar was held at Nabha, on March 5, when His Highness Maharaja Pratap Singh, of Nabha, was invested with ruling powers.

To increase the State's contribution to the war effort, His Highness announced further expansion of the State forces and further investment of Rs. 8 lakhs in defence bonds and a cash donation of Rs. 2 lakhs for three fighter planes to be named 'Nabha 1, 2, and 3'.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

North Africa

INDIAN TROOPS IN N. AFRICA

The Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, has sent the following personal message to H. E. the Viceroy:

The whole Empire has been stirred by the achievements of the Indian forces in Eritrea.

For me, the story of ardour and perseverance with which they ascended and finally conquered the precipitous heights of Keren recalls memories of the North-West Frontier of long years ago and it is as one who has had the honour to serve in the field with Indian soldiers from all parts of Hindustan, as well as in the name of His Majesty's Government, that I ask Your Excellency to convey to them and to the whole Indian Army the pride and admiration with which we have followed their heroic exploits.

Many deeds of gallantry by Indian troops during the operations, which led to the fall of Massawa, are described in despatches received from Eritrea, says a Press Note.

"The morale of the Italians began to give way under the relentless battering to which they had been subjected. The Indian troops were quick to seize their advantage and to attempt actions against odds which, in normal times, would have been extremely hazardous.

On several occasions, enemy machine-gun positions concealed behind wire-entanglements were taken at the bayonet point. One sepoy took such a post single-handed by crawling close enough to throw hand-grenades.

Another Havildar led a detachment over a bullet-swept area and a mine-field, to cut off 600 Italian naval ratings who were holding one sector of the line.

During the attack on the port, an Indian Company led by a Subedar succeeded in rounding up approximately 200 prisoners, who were preparing to make a stand with machine-guns.

Indian troops in carriers were the first to enter Massawa in spite of the mine-fields which crowded the entrance.

East Africa

INDIA'S TRADE WITH EAST AFRICA

The possibility of Indian manufacturers of chinaware and porcelainware, cutlery, silicate of soda, sulphuric acid and drugs, medicinal preparations, capturing a significant share of the trade in these commodities in East Africa, is hinted at by the Indian Government Trade Commissioner at Mombasa, in his Monthly Report for November 1940, dealing with openings for Indian commodities.

The Report states that consequent upon the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, most of the continental source of supply have been entirely shut out, and in view of the difficulties experienced in obtaining regular supplies from other markets, merchants in these territories have recently evinced an increasing interest in establishing connections with manufacturers in India, with a view to obtaining their requirements in respect of these commodities.

The principal sources of supply of crockery have been the United Kingdom, Germany and Japan. India can hope to capture a good share of the market previously enjoyed by Germany and Japan.

The chief sources of supply of cutlery in the past have been the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan and the United States of America. The market previously enjoyed by Germany and a fair share in the trade enjoyed by Japan could be captured by Indian manufacturers.

The United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, and the United States of America have been the chief suppliers of drugs and medicines.

JESUITISM AND NAZISM

MADRAS AND THE NEW

CONSTITUTION

The *New Review* for March offers an elaborate discussion of the Jesuit discipline as distinguished from the Nazi order. The whole system and spirit of Jesuitism makes it totally at variance with Nazism.

Between the Jesuit Order and the Nazi Party, there is as much or as little resemblance as between a Rubens and a Picasso. Not only the inspiration but contour and colouring are in violent contrast.

In a general way, it may be said that religious orders are rather of the type of a constitutional monarchy, and self-appointed dictators are unknown among them; the head of the Order is elected and the general laws passed by an assembly of delegates called from all countries, the process being controlled and ratified by the Holy See. The hierarchy of superiors corresponds to the executive administration of civil governments; obedience is due within the framework and the spirit of the laws duly passed and ratified. The vow of obedience, which is often made into a scarecrow, is rarely brought into play; a regular appeal to it would hardly agree with the very spirit of dedicated lives; willing horses do not need the whip. Needless to stress the absence of physical compulsion which would be enough to make a world of a difference with the jails and concentration camps of Fascists and Nazis.

Greater still is the contrast in training methods: it is even so great that no individual could at the same time be an authentic Jesuit and a genuine Nazi.

Leaving aside the religious content and purposes of doctrine, the two training schools stand at opposite poles. Nazi training makes for socialism, Jesuit training makes for personalism. The Nazi individual is supposed to merge his being and character into the great racial melting pot; whosoever personality he may have must be drowned into the social magma; he has value exactly as far as he contributes to racial welfare and national-socialist efficiency, and he may be suppressed as soon as he becomes useless to the group.

But the founder of the Jesuit Order was a firm believer in the sacred character and the unique value of the human person.

Man should be trained not as a social digit but as a personal unit, not as an isolated world but as a person, that is to say, as a social individual. This urgent and universal need makes the Ignatian method very modern and commands it to the attention of all.

The current *New Review* publishes an interesting discussion on the working of the new constitution in Madras. The discussion is initiated by a paper on the above subject in the East India Association by Lord Erskine, ex-Governor of Madras, who has had personal experience of two Ministries—the Justice and Congress Ministries, who held sway over the Presidency during his tenure of office. When he came to Madras in November, 1934, the Justice Party was in office.

Now the Justice Party were in office for the bulk of the period between 1919 and 1937, and during those years they had put into force many measures calculated to further their avowed intentions of obtaining more openings for non-Brahmins. They had, amongst other things, established a system of communal rotation for entrants into the Provincial Services based on the numerical strength of the various castes and creeds, and this policy had been of great effect in redressing the main grievance that the Party had been formed to combat.

It may, therefore, be said that by 1937 the Justice Party had achieved most of the objectives for which it had come into being. As it was more a caste than an economic party, it was finding difficulty in putting forward a new policy on which all its members could agree; for though the various groups of which it was composed were all enthusiastic in supporting measures to break what they considered to be the Brahmin monopoly, once that had been done each section held different ideas as to what their future programme should be.

Thus in his opinion the Party had served its purpose and has now outlined its usefulness. Hence its failure in the subsequent General Election which sent the Congress to office with a commanding majority.

It is, therefore, not altogether surprising that the General Election of 1937 resulted in a great Congress victory. Thus the advent of the 1935 Government of India Act fixed the Madras

Presidency with the Congress Party in the enjoyment of a large majority in both Houses of the Legislature, and it was generally expected that they would at once accept office.

The Party was particularly happy in its leader, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, who was asked to form the Government.

The Ministry was an able one and its leader was a remarkable man. Mr. Rajagopalachari is a Brahmin, a relation, by marriage, of Mr. Gandhi, an excellent speaker, and a person of very definite views. He was an energetic and hard-working Prime Minister, and his strength of character enabled him to carry out his ideas and to keep his colleagues well in hand. From the Governor's point of view also he was an admirable head of a Ministry, for though I may have had certain differences with him, those differences never led to any breach of our excellent personal relations; while his sincerity, ability, and readiness to compromise, where compromise was possible, enabled the Administration to be carried on with the minimum of friction.

The main achievements of the Congress Ministry, before they were forced to resign at the behest of the All-India Congress Committee, were the introduction of prohibition in certain mofussil districts, the reduction of the scales of pay for new entrants in the Provincial Services and the opening of the Temples of Madura and some other places to the Depressed classes.

Mr. H. S. L. Polak, who took part in the discussion, pointed out in the course of his observations:

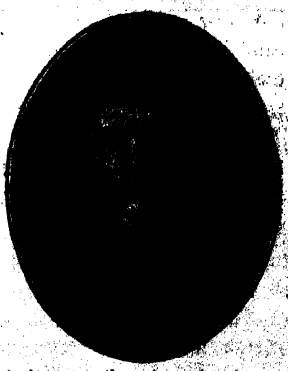
Those who are familiar with the people of Madras will not have been surprised to learn that my friend, Mr. Rajagopalachari, had almost a resounding success in the Ministry over which he presided and in the work that he was in the short time able to accomplish. There is, as I learnt many years ago in South Africa, a very considerable amount of sound common sense in Madras in all the communities, and I think the lecturer would agree that Mr. Rajagopalachari does represent in a very eminent degree this element of practical common sense in the Madras character.

Winding up the debate, Lord Erskine felt there was little need or justification in future for a party based merely on

communal considerations. He did not see any reason for deploring with Sir Alfred Watson the defeat of the Justice Party.

Whether the future party will be on quite the same lines as the old Justice Party, I should hesitate to say. The Justice Party was definitely based on an anti-Brahmin principle. It may well have been that in 1919, when representative government started, it was essential that a party should be so based. I am not sure that that time has not gone. After all, the Justice Party were formed to break what they thought to be a Brahmin monopoly. There is little doubt it has been broken.

The Brahmin has been educated for generations. He has always taken a great interest in learning. The non-Brahmins, up to a few generations ago, did not set much store by education, and it is true to say that the Mohammedans were in the same case. But, it was those many generations of education which enabled the Brahmin caste to establish its dominating position in the Madras Presidency. Now, to a large extent, I think it would be generally agreed that that domination has been broken; at any rate, it is far less than it was twenty years ago. Therefore, there does not seem to me to be a place now for a virulent anti-Brahmin party.



I hope Indians will realise the importance of patronising only Indian Insurance Institutions.

—Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Place your Life Business with INDIAN Insurance Companies only.

April '42.

THE POETRY OF WAR

It is said that today people are not interested in war pictures. Whereas in 1917, war was something far away and mysterious, in 1940 it is close at hand and rather sordid. To the average man, writes Eric Newton in the *Sunday Times*,

it consists mainly of things in their wrong place—noises in the silent night, holes in the smooth road, bedrooms on railway platforms. During a visit recently to the National Gallery, I found that more people had paid to look at the exhibition of drawings by Augustus John than had gone, without paying, to see the new rooms of war pictures in the same building. The preference is perhaps natural, but it is mistaken, for some of the young artists recently appointed to record the war are doing memorable work.

It is memorable not merely as a record but also as a complete vindication of the new outlook in painting. The kind of art that, a few years ago, was thought strange and uncouth has at last come into its own.

Out of harness, men like Graham Sutherland and Stanley Spencer sometimes seemed a little irresponsible and frisky. Harnessed, as they are now, to a set of events that involve every man and woman in England, they show that they can pull twice the weight of their more academic colleagues and pull it easily.

Take, for example, the case of bombed buildings. To most of us their novelty has already worn off; they are becoming an unsightly bore and the academic artist, like the camera, merely succeeds in recording their boring unsightliness.

But Graham Sutherland's three paintings of devastated buildings have a wild, crucified poignancy that gives the war a new meaning. And Mr. Pitchforth's drawings of twisted steel girders in what was once a Birmingham store make even chaos seem impressive. They writhe, snake-like, in an unceasing counterpoint of line and pattern. There is nothing sordid or boring about this kind of vision. Here is poetry wrung from the bowels of destruction. It is a very different kind of achievement from that of Augustus John,

whose poetry is already inherent in his romantic ladies and the long swags of their dresses.

Or take the case of war-work in the factories.

Yesterday I happened to see a film whose main function (it was avowedly propagandist) was to make engineering look exciting and glamorous. It failed lamentably, and it failed through lack of vision. Though it was a movie, the lather and drills gave no sense of movement. The machines were grey and languid and purposeless. At the National Gallery, there is a panel by Stanley Spencer (evidently a fragment of a large design) showing beagoggled men working with oxy-acetylene flames on steel plates. No party of demons in the stockholds of hell could look more dedicated or purposeful. Here is the true glamour of industry in war-time, its sweat and glitter turned into paint by a man who can see beneath its surface.

The best of these war pictures, concludes the writer, mark the beginning of renaissance in English art.

THE TIDE OF WAR

Field-Marshal Lord Birdwood, writing in the *Sunday Graphic*, calls for an immediate offensive against Germany, which alone could turn the tide of war.

"If the Nazis could land 10,000 men in two hours in Holland and Belgium, there is no reason why we should not do the same in Germany.

Once landed, our forces would be up against the Siegfried Line, assuming that it is carried in full strength behind the Belgian and Dutch frontiers.

I do not believe greatly in the infallibility of any line, if it is attacked in the right way by the right force. We must see to it that ours is the right force. It must have everything—tanks, aircraft, heavy artillery and men.

Once the Siegfried Line is cracked, the campaign will be ours for the making. I firmly believe that Germany will buckle when the realisation dawns that the foe is within her gates and that Hitler's legend of invincibility has been shattered."

BOMBED BOOK TRADE

Writing in the *Spectator*, Mr. Stanley Unwin (of George Allen and Unwin Ltd., the well-known London publishers) points out the extent of the loss sustained by the book trade owing to the intensive bombing carried out by the Luftwaffe. The more popular books, he says, can be reprinted more economically than during the last war.

There is thus no danger of the Nazis depriving us of the more popular books, because, given sufficient demand, they can be reprinted more quickly than the Nazis can destroy them. It is alas! the scholarly books, for which the demand is limited, that it will not pay to reprint. At least a thousand titles in my own list, for example, will go out of print when our limited bound stocks are exhausted. Of the 1,400,000 books destroyed in which I was personally interested, only a small proportion will ever be replaced. But other publishers whose current or unpublished books have been destroyed will rapidly replace them, and have in some cases already done so.

Mr. Unwin then attempts a list of the many publishers who have suffered loss.

Amongst the first to have large stocks destroyed at the binders were: Cassels and Gollancz, George Allen and Unwin, John Lane the Boodey Head, and many others followed all too soon thereafter as the result of the complete destruction of two large warehouses in which publishers' sheet-stock was stored in solid blocks from floor to ceiling. The bindery, some miles away, to which the warehouse belonged, had had a bomb on the corner of its works about a fortnight before, but thanks to the promptitude with which the bound stock was moved under cover, the publishers' losses had proved negligible, and I had been congratulating the binders on their and our own good fortune. I spoke too soon! Other firms who lost considerable stock about that time included Baillière, Tindall and Cox, Duckworth, Harrap, and Werner Laurie.

But worse was to come. Paternoster Row has long ceased to be the geographical

centre of publishing, which has moved westwards towards Covent Garden and the British Museum, but many famous houses still remained there.

To-day the "Row" is a picture of ruin. From the Warwick Lane end where Blackwood, Longmans, Nelsons, and Hutchinsons are situated, as far as the eye can see, the buildings have been gutted by fire. Stationers' Hall has been still further damaged, and the Publishers' Association had hastily to evacuate their rooms in the basement. The leading wholesale bookshops, Wimpkin Marshall, of Stationers' Hall Court, and their incomparable stock of—*it is said—five million books*, have been completely wiped out, and the trade has thereby lost an important cog in its distributive machinery.

Other publishers in the vicinity whose premises have been devastated are: Collins, Ward Lock, Eyre and Spottiswoode and Whitakers, but there are many more in addition to a long list of retail booksellers. Perhaps the most hardly hit were Longmans, because on the night that their premises were gutted, the warehouse where most of their stock was stored, although some miles away, was likewise hit.

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The Indian Merchants' Chamber (Bombay), etc. etc.

ORAL or POSTAL TUITION

WRITE OR CALL FOR FREE PROSPECTUS.

THE GROWTH OF COMMUNALISM

Communalism began in India by a demand for a special share in services and in representation in the legislatures, says Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in an article which has been reprinted in the Indian press. It has now developed into an openly anti-national, anti-democratic movement, hinting at the partition of India.

For a long while it had no constructive or any other programme. It lived on invective, violence and general offensiveness. It is amazing how it vulgarised our public life. It discovered that what it had valued most in the past—separate electorates—brought little good. In fact they weakened a minority group.

Then by the very force of the logic of hatred and separation that it had pursued, it had to go to the extreme of demanding a partition of India. The medieval theory of religious groups constituting a political community, which collapsed before an advancing nationalism in Europe, was revived. An idea similar to that of the Crusades, of Christendom versus Islam, suddenly appeared (it is said to be British inspiration in India). It was an astonishing throw back. Whoever else benefited or suffered from it, it was clear that British imperialism was the gainer.

It is curious that even in early and medieval India, this theory never functioned in the western way. Other religions were welcomed and accommodated.

The early Christians came in the first century and found a home. Jews were accommodated, Muslims were welcome to spread their religion and settle down (till invasion brought political conflicts), Parsis came and were absorbed. Later Muslim rulers thought in terms of building up a single nation of the Muslim newcomers and the Hindus and others. The great Akbar laid the foundations for this. The new cultural elements were absorbed and a common culture gradually developed, especially in Northern India.

And now we are told to go back to the pre-Akbar days, to reverse the process of history, to think in terms of medievalism. When nationalism is giving place to internationalism, an even narrower creed than nationalism is advanced,

and this leads forever and irrevocably with our British rulers. When the world is groping blindly towards a real federation of nations, it is suggested that India should be split up into various parts.

Muslim countries—Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Persia—have long discarded this medieval theory. They are intensely nationalist and are proud of their ancient culture.

Some of them deliberately go to their pre-Islamic days to find cultural inspiration. The Chinese Muslims are proud of their Chinese culture and fight for China's freedom. That is the course of history. Indeed it is a course that has already been run, and the mighty revolution that is taking place in the world to-day will lay down another course—the way to world federation based on national freedom and a juster economic system. Privilege and vested interest will have to go.

That is the goal of India—a united, free, democratic country, closely associated in a world federation with other free nations. We want independence, but not the old type of narrow, exclusive independence. We believe that the day of separate warring national States is over.

The Pandit then discusses what exactly constitutes freedom and observes: "We want independence and not dominion or any other status."

Every thinking person knows that the whole conception of Dominion Status belongs to past history; it has no future. It cannot survive this war, whatever the result of this war. But whether it survives or not we want none of it. We do not want to be bound down to a group of nations which has dominated and exploited us; we will not be in an empire in some parts of which we are treated as helots and where racialism runs riot.

We want to cut adrift from the financial domination of the City of London. We want to be completely free with no reservations or exceptions, except such as we ourselves approve in common with others, in order to join a Federation of Nations, or a new World Order. If this new World Order or Federation does not come in the near future, we should like to be closely associated in a federation with our neighbours—China, Burma, Ceylon, Afghanistan, Persia. We are prepared to take risk and face danger. We do not want the so-called protection of the British army or navy. We shall shift for ourselves.

If the past had not been there to bear witness, the present would have made us come to this final decision. For even in this present war and peril, there is no change in the manner of treatment accorded to our people by British imperialism. Let those who seek the favour and protection of this imperialism go its way. We go ours. The parting of the ways has come.

INDIAN ENGLISH

Prof. Anand Nath Jha, in a paper which has been published in many Indian periodicals, pleads for the use, retention and encouragement of Indian English. He observes:

The Americans have a language of their own so different from English that there is now an 'Oxford Book of American Usage'. Is there any reason why we need be ashamed of Indian English?

In verse, it will be unfair if the work of Toru Dutt, Sarojini Naidu, Harindra Chattopadhyaya, Aurobindo Ghosh, Mammohan Ghosh is forgotten. There must be hundreds who have published volumes of English verse, in addition to many more whose effusions appear in more fugitive form. Of Mammohan Ghosh, Oscar Wilde said: He ought some day to make a name in our literature, and Laurence Binyon says: To us he is a voice among the great company of English singers; somewhat apart and solitary, with a difference in his note, but not an echo. Over blank verse, Aurobindo Ghosh has firm control and his verses are strewn with memorable phrases. As word-artist and singer, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu has a unique position. Arthur Symonds rightly refers to 'the bird-like quality of her song and of the magic of the East.'

He thinks very highly of the style of Mahatma Gandhi when he writes on exalted themes; there is then a simplicity, directness and dignity reminiscent of the English Bible.

One of the most striking essays entitled "The Great Sentinel", his reply to Dr. Tagore's criticism of ethics of destruction repays perusal because of the great charm and force of its style.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru writes a firm, nervous, vigorous style, with a distinct literary flavour. As in his 'Autobiography' or in 'The Letters to a Daughter', he writes with distinction, with grace, with the art that finds the right word, the apt phrase, a freshness and a zest that sustains the reader's interest.

Nor can one afford to ignore the philosophic writings of Radhakrishnan whose gift of exposition is truly remarkable; the thoughtful and learned work of Bhagwan Das; the religious sermons of Vivekananda; and the closely-reasoned lectures of Iqbal and Brajendranath Seal.

There have been not a few Indians who are finished speakers in English and whether in the law courts or in legislative bodies or on platform are capable of stirring men's blood by wit, words, worth, action, utterance, and power of speech.

THE DEADLOCK

Replying to a letter criticising his views on the Indian question, Mr. Edward Thompson writes in *Time and Tide*:

There is no solution of the Indian problem or any other. All we can ever get is interim settlements. What we need now is an ending of a deadlock daily becoming something worse.

I believe that if we had said we would implement our how ancient pledge of Dominion Status, we should have got the Congress Ministers back. I believe, further, that they could have been persuaded to waive their election rights and to accept into the Cabinets the Muslim League which they routed at the polls. If that had happened, we should have gained the whole war period and then time to frame the new constitution. Alas, the two main parties would have tested whether they could learn to be Indians first of all and to work together.

The British Empire is not a thing of yesterday; it has handled problems before and has a vast experience.

We had the defence problem before, and Canada, Australia, South Africa did not consider it dangerous to their rights of self-government to allow Britain to hand over (not all at once and to help, meanwhile) naval and other bases. In our own island we had for a very long while conflicts of Catholic and Protestant for example.

There is not much hope for a ruling class if it cannot play its own game by its own rules. We said Dominion Status, and have kept on saying it. We gave India increasing powers of local self-government and the whole meaning of the last thirty years was that we meant self-government to be more or less along our own lines, through elected parliaments liable to defeat by the electorate.

The signs now are that we are planning to scrap all this and to fumble about for some new method based on some principle "better suited to the conditions of India."

We have also given any minority that can organize itself enough to make a row, the right of veto on any settlement. I submit that this course holds far more promise than the other one which had continuity.

Even now the Indian problem is nothing like as embittered as the Irish problem became before we got such settlements as we did get (and we had half a century of lost chances to have got a far better one).

SUICIDE: ITS CAUSE AND CURE

Lack of belief in rebirth is the cause of the innumerable cases of suicide reported in the West, says Mr. Jayadaya Goyandka in *Kalyana Kalpataru*. He says:

Conceptions about the other world and rebirth are special properties of the Hindu religious thought. Jainism and Buddhism also, which in a sense may be regarded as branches of Hinduism, accept these conceptions as the cardinal points of their faith.

Islam and Christianity do not accept them; but thanks to the efforts of the Theosophical Society and the spread of spiritualism, which in recent years has become remarkably popular in the West, the attention of the people has been drawn towards them and numerous people in Europe and America, although Christian in faith, have begun to believe in these ideas.

Faith in the other world and rebirth is, indeed, necessary for the soul's growth for the spread of religious spirit, happiness and love as well as for protecting oneself from vice and misery.

Disbelief in the immortality of the soul and the other world is the only cause why cases of suicide are now-a-days on the increase in the world, specially in the West, where accounts are heard of or read how, due to despair caused by life's failure, or to save oneself from dishonour and infamy, or due to the frustration of a hope, people put an end to their lives by drowning, hanging, burning, poisoning or shooting themselves.

We shall never gather courage to perpetrate this crime if we realise that life is not limited to the present birth, that before this we existed and will continue to exist when the present life comes to an end, that our sufferings will not cease through the destruction of the body; on the other hand, they will be more terrible if we perish without allowing the body to go through its determined course of experiences and become guilty of the new most grievous sin of suicide.

The writer holds that through association with the present materialistic

civilisation of the West, the idea of this sin is spreading among our modern educated young men and similar incidents are reported even in this country.

Suicide has been counted as a major and most heinous form of sin by our scriptures which declare that its commission throws a soul into dark species of beings, e.g., swine, dog, etc.

That sin is on the increase in the world, that falsehood, hypocrisy, robbery, violence, adultery and other forms of crime are taking more and more an aggravated form, that as among individuals so among nations quarrel and misunderstanding are growing and the strong is tyrannising over the weak, that leaving morality and religion alone people are rushing along paths of immorality and irreligion—the reason for all this is that people have begun to regard their present life as the whole of their life and do not believe that there is a life hereafter.

That is why all are engaged in the attempt to make the present life happy; enjoy the good things of the earth even by incurring debts. Who has seen what happens after death?

Almost the whole world is now after this disastrous philosophy. This is the reason why, instead of experiencing happiness, the world is getting more and more entangled in misery. This is the inevitable consequence of disbelief in the other world and rebirth.

INDIA IN PERIODICALS

THE INTER-COMMUNAL CONFLICT IN INDIA. By Dr. B. Anirvatham. [The Indian Journal of Social Work, March 1941.]

INDIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE. By The Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P. [The Asiatic Review, January 1941.]

THE MIRACLES OF SIKHISM. By Sir Jagendra Singh. [The Aryan Path, April 1941.]

THE INDIAN BUREAUCRACY. By R. Sathapalan. [The New Review, April 1941.]

THE WAR ECONOMY AND INDIAN INDUSTRIALISM. By Hriday Sarkar. [Current Thought, April-June 1941.]

THE BOMBAY CONFERENCE. By "I.D." [The Twentieth Century, April 1941.]

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA AND YOUNG INDIA. By Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. [Buddhist Review, April 1941.]

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS

DEPARTMENTAL

NOTES

Questions of Importance

GANDHIJI ON CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Mahatma Gandhi has refused to withdraw the Civil Disobedience movement, replying to the *Times of India* editorial appeal in an exclusive interview to the paper. He says:

"I adhere to all that I said at the initiation of the struggle. When I launched out, I had no foolish illusion about a sudden miracle happening. It was conceived to be, and it remains, a silent declaration of unquenchable faith in the power of non-violence even in the midst of circumstances so terrible and so baffling as face the world to-day.

I believe more in the efficiency of the incalculable force of an inscrutable divinity than in the efficacy of the calculated and calculable forces that the combined powers of destruction can bring into play on this little planet. That incalculable force has somehow or other to act through human agency. How and when I cannot say. Whether that agency is the Congress or not, I cannot say. I proceed upon the faith that to-day the Congress is the only organisation, however imperfect, however wanting in faith as an organisation, still the only organisation that stands defiantly for peaceful measures."

It was never intended, continues the Mahatma Gandhi, that it would create an appreciable impression upon the war effort, but it is a moral, and from that standpoint a grand protest against the conduct of the war in the name of a free people. It is a token of the yearning of a political organisation to achieve the freedom of 850,000,000 people through purely non-violent effort and, therefore, to affect the future destiny of the world. Again an ambitious claim, but it is there.

Referring to the Pakistan cry, Gandhiji points out:

"If I can help it, the Congress will disdain freedom at the sacrifice of a single legitimate interest that is consistent with the interests of the dumb millions whether they are Hindus, Muslims or others.

I must deny that if the Congress had held on to office in the seven provinces, the Pakistan cry would have been less loud than it is to-day; but the giving up of office had an infinitely more moral basis than the avoidance of the tussle with Muslim interests or any other interests."

He concludes:

I am convinced that if Britain will only be true to India, then whether the Congress withdraws the struggle or not, everything can be settled satisfactorily."

DR. SAPRU ON MR. AMERY'S SPEECH

Commenting on Mr. Amery's amazing speech in the House of Commons, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru observes:

"Bluntly put, Mr. Amery is mortgaging our future to certain intractable leaders. Expediencies of the hour are not always consistent with lasting policies seeking to achieve the permanent good of a vast country like India. Has Mr. Amery such a permanent policy? If so, what steps is he taking to implement that policy? What is his real contribution to the solution of the communal tangle? Is he not by his speeches making the task of those who want a real settlement more and more difficult? Is he strengthening the faith of Indians in British intentions? . . .

I believe that Mr. Amery's indiscreet and unfortunate speeches on this subject have done the worst service to us and he has no business to make that pious appeal to us when he himself has done nothing to promote unity among the contending elements in India."

MR. AMERY'S SPEECH IN THE COMMONS

Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, moved a resolution in the House of Commons on April 22, to extend for another year the Proclamation under which the Governors of the Indian Provinces can assume the powers of Provincial Legislatures.

Mr. Amery, in the course of his speech, inveighed against what he termed the Party Totalitarianism of the Congress in relation to the Provincial Ministries, but remarked on the opportunity the Congress was losing by not working the present Government of India Act.

He said: "Congress, I fear, is blind to the risk that no alternative constitution is now likely to emerge which could secure for it as great a measure of influence and control of India as a whole as it would have exercised under the present Act."

Mr. Amery reminded the House that in Bengal, Assam, Sind and the Punjab, representing one-third of the whole population of British Indian Provincial Governments continued to work.

It is a matter of regret, said Mr. Amery, "that the 200 million inhabitants of the other seven provinces were forbidden by the order of the Congress High Command to continue the tradition of self-government".

Mr. Amery referred to the British Government's policy in regard to India's constitutional advance and said that the whole field of constitutional reform was open to revision, subject to agreement upon the kind of Constitution that Indians were prepared to work.

Continuing, Mr. Amery said: "If our type of democracy stands in the way of agreement, India's needs could be better met by a Constitution in which the Executive would derive its authority more directly from Federated Units, like the American Executive independent of the Legislature."

MR. SASTRI'S APPEAL TO CONGRESS

"We are asking the Congress people to come back to lead us, protect us in this time of great trouble. Their place to-day, as people who hold our confidence and our suffrage, is beside us and not in prison cells," declared the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastriar in a powerful appeal to the Congress at a meeting in Mysapore on April 26. Mr. Srinivasa Sastriar added: "May we hope that if our appeal to the Congress leaders finds favourable reception and the Congress decides to come back to positive duties in the country, Mr. Amery and the Viceroy will not make any difficulty, but will welcome them with open arms."

Where are the people whom with such acclaim we elected to be our leaders in the various provincial cabinets? They are all in jail.

Who have taken their place? A government of advisers, not our people, and their paid employees. Is that a state of things that a body of sensible electors can countenance?

We have stakes in the country, we have posterity to look for with children to protect, and with women whose honour is to them more sacred than any thing else. What can we do, unorganised as we are?

Let us change the picture and conceive Congress leaders as they were established in the provinces. May be they had only three-fourths of the authority that should belong to provincial governments, but still they were armed with something with which they could march forward, talk to outsiders and put down trouble-makers.

Supposing we had leaders of that kind established in the various provinces, should we not be a little more emboldened than we are now?

I tell you, whatever your feelings may be, I am full of alarm. I am full of concern. I feel abandoned by those who ought to be here to protect me.

That is the line we are taking."

GANDHIJI ON THE INDIA DEBATE

Mahatma Gandhi has made the following statement on Mr. Amery's speech in the House of Commons:—

Distress has been known to have softened people's hearts and made them mindful of facts. But Britain's distress has evidently left Mr. Amery absolutely cold and untouched. This callousness makes me more than ever confirmed in my opinion that the Congress must abide by its policy of non-violence in spite of the heavy odds facing it.

Mr. Amery has rendered no service to Great Britain by his contemptuous disregard of the situation as it exists in India and the facts that stare one in the face. He talks glibly of British rule having given peace to India. Did he not know what was happening in Dacca and Ahmedabad? Who is responsible for keeping the peace in these two places? I hope he will not throw in my face the fact that Bengal, at any rate, has self-government. He knows what a mockery that self-government is. He knows what little power for such emergencies, toy Ministers have, whether they wear the Congress label, the League label or any other.

I ask the very pertinent question: Why has this long spell of British rule left the people so emasculated as to disable them from standing up against a few hundred goondas? It is a humiliating spectacle, more for the British than for us, to see thousands of people running away from their homes through sheer fright, because a few hundred goondas have found a favourable atmosphere for resorting to arson, murder and loot. The first act of any Government worth the name would be to teach its people the art of self-defence, but the foreign British Government had no concern about this fundamental welfare of India's citizens and so it deprived the people of the use of arms. . . .

Mr. Amery has insulted Indian intelligence by reiterating *ad nauseam* that Indian political parties have but to agree among themselves and Great Britain will register the will of a united India. I have repeatedly shown that it has been the

traditional policy of Great Britain to prevent parties from uniting. 'Divide and rule' has been Great Britain's proud and ill-conceived motto. It is the British statesmen who are responsible for the divisions in India's ranks and the divisions will continue so long as the British sword holds India under bondage.

I admit that there is unfortunately an unbridgeable gulf between the Congress and the Muslim League. Why do not British statesmen admit that it is after all a domestic quarrel? Let them withdraw from India and I promise that the Congress and the League and all other parties will find it to their interest to come together and devise a home-made solution for the government of India. It may not be scientific; it may not be after any western pattern; but it will be durable. It may be that before we come to that happy state of affairs, we may have to fight amongst ourselves. But if we agree not to invite the assistance of any outside Power, the trouble will last perhaps a fortnight and it will not mean even one day's destruction of human heads such as goes on in Europe to-day, for the simple reason that thanks to the British rule we are wholly unarmed.

Mr. Amery, in utter disregard of truth, misleads his ignorant audience that the Congress wants 'all or nothing'. Let me remind him that in order to placate British sentiment, the Congress descended to the Poona Resolution and when at Bombay it undid the Poona Resolution, I authoritatively stated that the British Government could not at the present moment grant or declare India's independence and that, therefore, for the time being, we should be satisfied with complete freedom of speech and pen. Was that 'All or nothing'? With Mr. Amery's state of mind, I suppose it is too much to expect him to have the elementary grace to acknowledge the studied moderation of the Congress in its desire not to embarrass the British Government whilst it is fighting for its very existence. Not having that grace, he turns the Congress moderation against it and claims that the Congress civil disobedience has fallen flat."

PROF. RADHAKRISHNAN & STUDENTS

Deep sense of respect and affection for Prof. Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan was expressed by the students and teachers of the University of Calcutta, when they presented to him a farewell address on his retirement from the King George the Fifth Professorship of Philosophy of the University. The function was held under the joint auspices of the Post-Graduate Students' Committee and all other Post-Graduate seminars at the Asutosh Hall under the presidency of Dr. Syamprasad Mookherjee.

"For nearly a quarter of a century," the address of farewell stated, "generations of students of India have sat at your feet and you have inspired them with noble enthusiasm for new way of life.

"It is with a heavy heart," the address added, "that we bid you farewell to-day, for with you departs a friend, philosopher and guide of the students and teachers of the University."

In reply, Sir Sarvapalli said that it was a pleasure for him to hear from students and the teachers of their expressions of good wishes and affection for him. He added that if only they could respond to the deepest aspirations of Indian spirit, India would be saved and would also save the rest of the world.

SANSKRIT AND TAMIL STUDIES

Resolutions expressing disapproval of the decision of the Tanjore District Board, directing the immediate introduction of a compulsory common mess in the free boarding house attached to the Tanjore Raja's College of Sanskrit and Tamil Studies at Tiruvadi and maintained from

the funds of the Kalyana Mahal Endowment and the abolition of the Sabitya Siromani Courses in the College were passed at a public meeting held on April 5, at the Banade Hall, Mylapore: under the auspices of the Sanskrit Academy, with Rt. Hon. Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri in the chair.

The Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri said that the College was maintained out of the funds endowed by the Tanjore Royal Family and the object of the donors was to conduct the charities in the traditional methods and conditions.

Any sudden departure from traditional usages and practices of the community would call for public protest. Besides, if the departure violated the wishes of the original donors and long established practice of the College, it was beyond the legal competence of the body appointed to manage it.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Ayyar moving the resolution said that he did not believe in reform which was forced down the throats of people. He believed in persuasion and education. The resolution of the district board in regard to common mess appeared to him to be an abuse of powers vested in it.

DR. S. SINHA

Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha has been granted an extension of his Vice-Chancellorship of the Patna University.

Dr. Sinha was appointed Vice-Chancellor in August 1936 and has been the first Vice-Chancellor of the Patna University to have been in office for five consecutive years. The present extension will be for another two years from August next.

A JUDICIAL IMPROPRIETY

In disposing of a petition before him, Mr. Justice Agrawala pointed out in his judgment the impropriety of a Magistrate trying a case, to ask the accused concerned to contribute money as subscription to War Fund or any charitable cause.

His Lordship observed that it was extremely improper for a Magistrate who was trying a case, to ask the accused to subscribe to funds for public, charitable or any other purpose, as such action was liable to be misunderstood by persons who were standing their trial.

He directed that the hearing of this case be transferred from the file of the Magistrate before whom it was now at Jahanabad to the Court of such other Magistrate at Sadar as the District Magistrate might direct and that the trial do proceed from the point at which it arrived on the 20th of November 1940, when the petitioners' bails were cancelled.

SIND DOWRY ACT

No Hindu bridegroom in Sind shall receive presents worth more than 20 rupees on any one occasion before and after his marriage, according to the rules formulated by the Government under the provisions of the Sind Dowry Act passed by the Sind Assembly in 1939.

On the day of marriage, it is enjoined by the rules, the presents should not exceed Rs. 100, while on festivals and auspicious occasions between the day of betrothal and the day of marriage the aggregate presents shall not exceed Rs. 20.

It may be mentioned that the Dowry Act fixed the maximum dowry to be given by the parents and guardians of the bride at Rs. 1,500.

LICENCE FOR TODDY TAPPING

A judgment vitally affecting the prohibition policy of the Government of Bombay was delivered by the Bombay High Court on April 18. The matter before the High Court related to the policy in respect of granting licence for tapping toddy, and the officiating Chief Justice, Sir Patrick Blackwell, held that the Collector was bound to grant an application for licence, provided it conformed to the requirements of the Abkari Act. There was a statutory obligation to grant the licence irrespective of the policy of the Government.

The application was filed before the Court by Mr. R. N. Todiwalla, praying the Court to direct the Collector of Bombay to issue to him a licence to tap trees standing on his own lands for domestic consumption. The applicant urged that the Collector of Bombay in pursuance of the prohibition policy followed by the Government had refused to grant a licence.

His Lordship in his judgment held that if the application conformed to the requirements of the Abkari Act otherwise, there was a statutory obligation on the part of the Collector to grant the licence and passed orders directing the Collector of Bombay forthwith to grant the licence to the applicant, subject to the satisfaction of other requirements of the Act.

SIR JOHN BEAUMONT

A *communiqué* states that His Excellency the Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the Hon. Sir John Beaumont, at present Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, to act temporarily as a Judge of the Federal Court of India in the vacancy caused by the death of Sir Shah Muhammad Sulaiman.

INSURE CASH IN TRANSIT

The practice of the Calcutta Corporation to get their cash in transit insured is commendable, says the *Insurance Herald*, and should be adopted by all offices which have large cash to send to and take from the Bank every day. Robberies in the streets of Calcutta, as also in other cities of India, have been frequent and the money has been forcibly snatched away before it could reach its destination. Offices which have suffered in this way and were not wise enough to take up the necessary insurance beforehand, must have wished that they had done so earlier. Street robbery is a potential risk against which every office bringing in, and sending out, large cash every day should protect itself. This is a form of insurance which should be emphasised on all big offices and may be pursued by our insurance companies with profit.

ORIENTAL'S RECORD

The amount of new life assurance business written by the Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Company, Limited, in 1940, was 85,764 policies assuring Rs. 7,48,85,948.

THE SUN LIFE OF CANADA

The Sun Life of Canada is a stupendous organisation with its ramifications in every part of the civilised world. At the 70th annual meeting of this great concern, held at Montreal on February 11, the financial statement presented by Arthur B. Wood, President and Managing-Director, revealed that business in force increased by twenty-five millions during 1940, bringing the total now in force close to three million dollars. New business placed on the books over the year was approximately \$170 millions.

Premium income for 1940 exceeded \$111,000,000 while total receipts showed an increase over 1939 at \$167,000,000. In the 70 years under review, the Sun Life of Canada had paid to policyholders and beneficiaries the imposing sum of \$1,890,000,000. Mr. Wood, in quoting these records of achievement, which had been maintained despite wars and epidemics, booms and depressions, stated that they were an impressive demonstration of the soundness of life assurance and its ability to meet all obligations in a normal way at all times and under all conditions.

NUMBER OF COMPANIES IN INDIA

The following interesting figures are taken from the Insurance Year Book:—

1937. 1938.

Total number of companies working in India	...	868	879
Total number of companies constituted in India	...	219	222
Total number of companies constituted outside India...		149	147

Of the total number of 219 companies constituted in India:

67	are established in the Bombay Presidency.
49	" " Bengal Presidency.
40	" " Madras Presidency.
25	" " Punjab.
10	" " United Provinces.
10	" " Delhi.
5	" " Central Provinces.
4	" " Behar.
2	" " Ajmer-Merwara.
2	" " Burma.
2	" " Assam.
2	" " Sind.
1	" " N.-W. F. P.

Of the total number of 210 Indian companies,

116 are proprietary, and
84 are mutual.

INDO-BURMA TRADE AGREEMENT

The Memorandum setting out the points of agreement on Indo-Burma trade was signed at New Delhi on April 8, by the delegations of the two countries.

"The arrangements are likely to secure for Burmese goods in India more or less their present position, while we hope that the low tariff that will be imposed upon Indian goods in Burma is low enough to maintain the present predominant position which Indian goods hold in the Burma market."

Thus observed U. Ba. Than, Commerce Minister, Burma, in a statement to the House of Representatives on the new Indo-Burma Trade Agreement.

"Finally," he continued, "the new arrangements will enable Burma to have the much-needed additional revenue of over a crore from Customs duty and will, to that extent, help to bridge in the coming year a deficit budget."

Under the new agreement, said the Minister, each country would have a right to impose Customs duty on imports from the other, but with the important provision that each country guaranteed to the other a position of special advantage. Subject to specified exceptions, each country guaranteed to the other a preferential rate; where any commodity was subject to a standard rate, the Governments of India and Burma each undertook to accord a margin of preference of 15 per cent. to the other.

In the case of commodities subject to the standard rate and preferential rate, each country undertook to accord to the other a margin of preference of 15 per cent. compared with the standard rate, or 10 per cent. compared with the preferential rate, whichever was greater.

INDIAN EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA

Indian exports to Australia improved to the extent of Rs. 2.52 lakhs in 1988-89 while Australian imports into India recorded a slight fall.

Principal items of India's exports to Commonwealth consist of jute manufactures. Nearly 71 million gunny bags and 41 million yards of gunny cloth were exported as against 66 million gunny bags and 81 million yards of gunny cloth in the preceding year. Exports of tea continued to rise and shipments amounted to 8.7 million lbs. as compared with 1.5 million lbs. Similarly shipments of Haseed improved from 21,000 tons to 31,000 tons.

Wheat, the largest item of imports from Australia, declined from 151,000 tons in 1988-89 to 85,000 tons. India imports a large quantity of raw wool from Australia which amounted to 4.9 million lbs. as against 4.4 million lbs. in 1988-89. Imports of tallow and stearine rose, while those of zinc fell. Among other important items of import, provisions accounted for Rs. 25 lakhs as against Rs. 18 lakhs in the preceding year.

SHIPMENTS OF INDIAN TIMBER

Large overseas demands for timber continue to be met by India. It is learnt that during the first fortnight of February, timber valued at Rs. 40,00,000 was purchased by the Supply Department.

The chief orders and enquiries received during the first two weeks of February by the Department of Supply are textiles for New Zealand, Australia and His Majesty's Government, webbing for New Zealand, blanket and yarn for Burma, and 12,000,000 yards of mosquito netting for the Defence Services.

WOMEN'S NEXT STEP

It is just a 100 years' since the women of America first launched an organized move for suffrage and women's rights in general, writes Susan Anthony in the *New York Times Magazine*. "When that movement was begun in 1840, women had few legal rights. They could not vote. They could not hold public office. They had no legal control over their children and if they worked, they had no choice in their working conditions or wages. Only seven occupations were open to them chiefly: domestic service, boarding house keeping and weaving."

To-day the picture is vastly different. Women vote equally with men. They hold public office; they have risen not only to the Senate but to the President's Cabinet. "Not only have they attained legal status as wage-earners, but they have helped frame the laws affecting that status. Almost 500 of the 584 occupations listed by the Bureau of the Census are open to them. They have achieved distinction in industry, the arts, the law, and public affairs."

But the situation of women to-day is still a controversial issue. Barriers still exist which exclude women from a position of complete equality with men. The women's organizations are convinced that much remains to be done. They are not content to rest on present achievements.

"They now call for full legal equality, for equal opportunities in every field, for full use of those opportunities, for a full authoritative voice in public affairs, and for recognition by the women themselves of their obligation to help preserve democracy.

To-day in America, there are similar trends. For example, 20 State Legislatures

had before them last year bills to prohibit married women from official job holding if their husbands were employed. "Certain pro-Fascist columnists persist in their insistence that women workers deprive family heads of jobs and that therefore women should stick to the stove and kitchen sink. I wonder if these gentlemen have ever further muddled their brains trying to run a house? If they had, their columns would carry a different story.

Millions of American women do full-time unpaid work for their own families involving real skills. I don't think, of course, that husbands should or could afford to pay them for this work—their salaries are too low; but I do think that community services should be extended so that in the future women won't be enslaved by cooking meals, cleaning, washing diapers and other onerous tasks.

Women's biggest job for the next century is to preserve the democracy we have and to keep this nation a democracy by our increased participation in the life of the nation."

HINDU WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Delivering judgment in the Governor-General's reference in the matter of the Hindu Women's Rights to Property Act of 1937 and the Amending Act of 1938, the Federal Court held that

- i. the two Acts do not operate to regulate succession to agricultural land in the Governors' Provinces; and
- ii. they do operate to regulate devolution by survivorship of property other than agricultural land.

The Court also held that the subject of devolution by survivorship of property other than agricultural land is included in Entry No. 7 (Transfer of property other than agricultural land) of the Concurrent Legislative List.

DR. S. KRISHNASWAMI AIYANGAR.

Dr. S. Krishnaswami Aiyangar, well known historian and editor of the *Journal of Indian History*, was felicitated at a meeting held at the University Departmental Buildings, Chepauk, on April 28. Sir P. S. Sivaswami Aiyar was in the chair.

The Chairman presented to Dr. Krishnaswami Aiyangar a special number of the *Journal of Indian History* and a volume containing the collected papers on Indian History written by the Doctor.

Professor C. S. Srinivasachariar read messages received from Sir Mirza Ismail, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty and other notables, wishing the function success and paying tributes to the services rendered by Dr. Krishnaswami Aiyangar to the cause of South Indian History. Mr. Srinivasachariar also traced the history of the Journal and explained the part played by Dr. Krishnaswami Aiyangar in making the Journal a success.

"THE TIMES" AT THREE PENCE

As a result of war-time conditions, The Times will be sold at 8d. per copy instead of 2d. The increase became operative from April 7.

The Times explains to its readers that war time conditions demanded first a reduction in the size of the newspaper which has already been effected and reduction in the number of copies printed. Difficulty has been experienced in curtailing the public demand for this famous newspaper, hence the price has been increased. A similar increase was imposed in March 1918, which was operative for one year thereafter.

LIFE OF AKBAR

It is understood that at the meeting of the Bharatiya Itihasa Parishad held recently at Calcutta, it has been decided to bring out in the course of the next year the volume on Akbar. The year 1942 will mark the fourth centenary of the birth of Akbar, and it is considered appropriate that the volume on Akbar should be brought out then. Jadunath Sirkar has been appointed editor-in-charge of that volume. It is the aim of the Parishad to bring out in course of time a complete history of India in about 20 volumes.

SIR SUNDER SINGH MAJITHIA

The death has occurred after protracted illness of the Hon. Sir Sunder Singh Majithia, Revenue Minister, Punjab. He expired on the 2nd April.

Coming of a distinguished family and married to the grand-daughter of Sir Abtar Singh, Chief of Bahadur in Patiala State, the late Sir Sunder Singh came into prominence first as Secretary of Khalsa College, Amritsar, and later as Secretary of the Chief Khalsa Diwan, a representative body of the Sikhs from its inception in 1902 to the close of 1930. He was aged 69 at the time of his death.

MR. CHURCHILL—MAN OF THE YEAR

Mr. Winston Churchill, British Premier, has been selected as the "Man of the Year" for 1940 by the weekly magazine *Time*. The designation is given every year by the Editors to the man or woman who has effected the most dramatic change on the course of history during the past year.

Time's "Man of the Year" for 1938 was Hitler, and for 1939, Stalin.

MR. S. DUTT AND MR. VENKATACHAR

Mr. S. Dutt, I.C.S., is appointed Agent of the Government of India in Malaya with effect from April 8, and the services of Mr. C. S. Venkatachar, I.C.S., the former Agent, are placed at the disposal of the United Provinces Government from the same date.

Mr. C. S. Venkatachar, has since been selected for the presidentship of the U. P. Court of Wards.

MR. K. L. GAUBA

Mr. K. L. Gauba, M.L.A., son of the late Lala Haishanial, was adjudicated an insolvent. Mr. Justice Sale of the High Court, who passed an order to this effect on the petition filed by the Punjab Cotton Press.

Mr. Gauba's debts are found to be of over two lakhs of rupees, while his income for the last year, including his Assembly allowances, was a little over Rs. 21,000.

BLOOD PURIFIED BY RAY TREATMENT

Ultra-violet rays, as is well known, are deadly to all forms of germ life. For that reason they are used in hospital operating rooms and for various sterilizing purposes. Many diseases are attributed to the presence of bacteria in the blood stream. Could not the blood be purified by ray treatment?

An obstacle, which at one time seemed insuperable to some at least who asked this question, was the fact that the skin, which receives that healthy-looking tan from the rays, effectively prevents the healing, germ-killing influence from penetrating far enough into the body to reach the blood where the disease bacilli lurk.

If the rays cannot be brought to the blood, why not bring the blood to the rays? Thus reasoned a Seattle scientist, Mr. Emmet K. Knott, and after experimenting for 15 years, he has developed a technique for extracting blood from a sick person, giving it a sun bath and returning it to the patient.

About half a pint of blood is withdrawn at a time and mixed with sodium citrate to prevent coagulation, then subjected to the ultra-violet rays. Over 6,000 patients, many of them suffering from the blood poisoning, have benefited from this treatment according to the reports.

AMERICAN DOCTORS FOR EUROPE

President Roosevelt urged American doctors "to volunteer to serve in the military and civilian hospitals of our British friends" in a statement issued from his home in Hyde Park, New York.

The President said that the British Red Cross had appealed through the American Red Cross for a thousand young American doctors to help to meet the acute shortage of doctors in British hospitals. As President of the American Red Cross, he said: "I heartily approve of this request."

He explained that volunteers would be enrolled in the British Red Cross and would be protected by the Red Cross Treaty of Geneva. Young doctors, whom Britain so desperately needs, can do much to heal the wounds inflicted on civilians and the military alike in this cruel war, he added.

DOES SMOKING AFFECT HEART?

At the American Medical Association last summer, doctors entered into a heated discussion of the perennial question whether smoking is a cause of heart disease. Those assembled puffed clouds of argumentative smoke, though the statistical study presented by Dr. Frederick Arthur Willins of the Mayo Clinic, was rather weighty and too significant.

Dr. Willins with two of his assistants made a comparative study of the health of smokers and non-smokers, who visited the clinic in thousands. It was found that among smokers between the ages of 40 and 59, there was three times as much heart disease as in a similar number of non-smokers.

But among men of 60 and beyond belonging to both the groups, no noteworthy differences were observed.

DEPRESSION DIET

Despite hard times, U. S. diets have grown more nutritious in the past 10 years, because (1) more home canning; (2) more truck farming; (3) wide Government distribution of such vitamin-rich foods as oranges, grapefruit, milk, and celery.

In spite of all this, the average U. S. diet has plenty of room for improvement, especially in some southern rural districts where the people still live mainly on hog and corn. In a survey made from 1984 to 1987, says Dr. Cummings, that out of every 100 families throughout the country, only 28 enjoyed diets, which, from the nutritional standpoint, were good; 51 had diets which were fair, and 26 followed poor diets.

THE ODOUR OF SANCTITY

The crowded underground shelters of London have many drawbacks. One is that they stink. Another is that the air in them is laden with germs. Recently in the *Lancet*, Scientists Charles Gaud Twort and A. H. Baker of the Portlaid Laboratories in Sussex came out for an old-fashioned way of doing away with disagreeable smells, which is a new-fangled way of doing away with germs by burning incense. Ordinary pungent incense smoke, said they, kills many kinds of nose and throat germs.

QUEEN VICTORIA RUPEES

Though Queen Victoria rupees cease to be legal tender after March 31, 1941, for six months thereafter, i.e., till September 30, 1941, they will be received freely at all Government treasuries whether in payments due to Government or otherwise, and will be exchanged for current legal tender currency at par value. In addition, they will be accepted in payment of dues at all post offices.

Arrangements have also been made for their being received at railway stations on the State-owned railways in payment of fares or freight.

After September 30, 1941, however, they will not be accepted, except until further notice at the offices of the Reserve Bank of India at Bombay and Calcutta.

REFUND OF MUTILATED ONE-RUPEE NOTES

In order to remove the inconvenience complained of in the present procedure for refunds of cut or mutilated one-rupee notes, instructions had been issued to all Treasury Officers and branches of the Imperial Bank to receive at full value all genuine one-rupee notes with a slight mutilation which does not interfere with identification or suggest fraud, e.g., notes of which clearly more than half is intact.

Applications for the refund of cut, altered or obliterated notes, that is notes disfigured in such a manner as to render their identification doubtful, must, however, continue to be made to the Reserve Bank of India according to the ordinary procedure.

REPATRIATION OF STERLING DEBT

In the Council of State, on March 27, during question time, Mr. C. E. Jones, Finance Secretary, replying to Mr. Hossain Imam, said that the amount of India sterling stock surrendered in the United Kingdom by March 10, was approximately £54½ million equivalent to Rs. 72½ crores of rupees. In India, sterling securities to the value of about Rs. 11 crores had been surrendered in exchange for rupee counterparts and securities to the value of about Rs. 1½ crores against payment in rupees.

PAYMENTS BY INSTALMENT

Over sixty American railway companies have introduced a "travel-on credit" plan to enable passengers to make trips on the railways and pay for them later.

No deposit is required either but a nominal service charge is added to the cost of the ticket.

"Credit is not necessarily confined to the cost of transportation alone," said a statement issued by the companies. It may be used for Pullman accommodations, all-expense tours, which include hotels and meals, specified side-trips, steamship travel and any other service that is sold through the railroad ticket office, except money orders (postal orders) and travellers' cheques."

RAILWAY EXTENSION IN KATHIAWAR

A new railway line linking Dhrangadhra territory with Morvi will be shortly taken in hand. Ten miles of the new line will be constructed by Dhrangadhra, while the remaining link will be formed by the conversion by Morvi of a narrow gauge into a metre gauge and the extension of that line for four miles, from Jetpur to Devlia. The Hadmatra-Dhrol-Jodia extension of 27 miles built by the Jamnagar and Dwarka Railway at a cost of over Rs. 11,00,000 has been opened for traffic with effect from October 1. This extension will develop the resources of the Dhrol State and will benefit the port of Jodia in the Nawanagar State.

NEW RAILWAY PATTERNS

The patterns now adopted by the Railway Board are a great improvement over any type in general use in the past. Each compartment has its own lavatory, which serves a maximum of 20 passengers, and more generally only 16. In the past, one latrine has served as many as 54 passengers, and the average has been 27.

Between adjacent compartments of the same class, doors are to be provided on the new coaches. A proportion of these doors will be fitted with locks so that it will be possible for one or more adjacent compartments to be reserved for women or for parties travelling together. This is a completely new departure in third-class coaches and has been provided in response to public demand.

SIMPSON'S CENTENARY SOUVENIR

Messrs. Simpson & Co., once the celebrated coach-builders of Madras, have completed a hundred years of service in their special line, and the auspicious occasion is appropriately marked by the publication of a Souvenir, recounting the story of their enterprise from the days of the slow moving yet impressive howdahs and palanquins down to our own days of hurried travel and transport in motor cars and lorries. Successive generations of the nobility of South India have enjoyed the service of the Simpson vehicles, noted alike for their comfort and elegance. The cars in which the Simpsons specialise to-day are now the most popular means of transport in India, distinguished for their beauty of design quite as much as for their speed. The story of this great enterprise through the century is told impressively in the pictorial volume before us, printed on art paper and got up sumptuously as befitting an appropriate memento of a rare occasion.

We congratulate Mr. W. W. Ladden, the enterprising Managing-Director and his colleagues on the way they are upholding the traditions of the great house of Simpsons and wish the institution many more years of useful service to the public.

MOTOR INDUSTRY IN INDIA

American industrialists view with sympathy the attempts of Indians to establish a motor industry in India. "The more, the merrier" was the remark made by Mr. H. M. Halsted of General Motors at Bombay, when informed about Mr. Walchand Hirachand's project to start a motor car factory at Mysore.

Reviewing the position of the motor car trade in India, Mr. Halsted said that at present India has been absorbing at the rate of 25,000 cars a year. General Motors enjoy over 50 per cent. share of the sales. General Motors import automobile parts from their American factories and assemble them in their Bombay factory and distribute cars all over India. There are already 2,700 Indians working in the Bombay factory and from his personal experience, Mr. Halsted felt that given proper training, Indians could shape out into skilled motor builders.

AMERICAN AIRCRAFT FOR BRITAIN

September will be a decisive month, said Sir Walter Citrine, the British Trade Union leader, broadcasting from London.

Sir Walter Citrine, who has returned from an extensive tour of the United States, said that, by September, British and United States production of aircraft would exceed the German production.

The American aircraft industry, he added, was expanding at an incredible rate. Last July, 78,000 men were employed in the American aircraft factories and at the present moment, 250,000 were employed. By next June, the number would have expanded to 500,000.

NEW PLANE FOR BRITAIN

A new type of plane is being added to Britain's air strength and is expected to play a useful part in the war.

A light twin-engined bomber, the new plane is to be known as the Botha I and is the result of experiments carried out at one of the most important aeroplane factories in this country. Its performance and armament are a close secret at present. It is a general reconnaissance and torpedo bomber and powered by two Perseus engines.

TRAINING IN CIVIL AVIATION

The Civil Aviation Directorate have embarked on a scheme of training two thousand mechanics a year for two years for the maintenance of aircraft and, in pursuance of this, have created nine training centres in different parts of the country, out of which eight have already commenced work. As soon as men are selected for training by the Indian Air Force Recruiting Officer, they are absorbed by one of these training centres and given a stipendiary allowance of Rs. 25 per month during the period of civilian training.

INVISIBLE PLANES

A new type of Junkers plane made of transparent material and stated to be scarcely visible at a height of 2,400 feet, is being constructed at big aircraft factories at Wiener Neustadt in Austria, according to reports reaching the German frontier.

The machines are reported to have engines of 1,100 h.p. and a speed of 800 miles per hour.

INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION COUNCIL

A plea for the formation of an Industrial Reconstruction Council, consisting of eminent Indian industrialists and public men was advanced by Mr. Amrit Lal Ojha, presiding over the fourteenth Annual Session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, recently held at Delhi.

The Council, he said, must utilize the large amount of information collected by the Supply Department with a view to evolving an immediate plan for either suitably expanding the present enterprises or creating new ones.

HAND-MADE PAPER

The Government of Bengal have, it is learnt, decided to launch a three-year scheme for investigating the commercial possibilities of hand-made paper as a small scale industry. The scheme is estimated to cost the Government about Rs. 9,000.

It is stated that the manufacture of hand-made paper was once a wide-spread and prosperous industry in Bengal, and a large number of people used to earn a livelihood by it. But with the advent of mill-made paper, the hand-made product lost its foothold.

ARMY BLANKETS

The Department of Industries, Punjab, is handling a huge order for 45,000 army blankets, which are being made by the villagers of Panipat and Khamkaran from raw wool available in the Punjab. Efficiency in carding, milling, washing and raising are assured by the use of suitable machines. The total order amounts to nearly Rs. 8,00,000, and the villagers' share by way of wages will be nearly Rs. 90,000.

PAPER FROM STRAW

Cargoes of paper made from straw are now on their way from Britain overseas. The achievement is a triumph for British research. Paper-makers during the last war began experimenting with the idea of making paper from straw. Since then they have made such progress that to-day they are shipping a product which, although it lacks the qualities of vellum, is excellent for writing on.

TOBACCO GROWING IN U. P.

The U. P. Government have decided to continue and expand the experimental scheme of growing cigarette tobacco in the province. The scheme was started last year and the experiments so far, it is stated, have been successful.

While tobacco was grown only in the Government farm at Jhansi during last season, Government have decided to subsidize indigenous cultivators round about the Jhansi area also to take to growing of this brand of tobacco. They will be given help to buy seeds and will be helped to cure the leaves. Arrangements have also been made for the proper marketing of the produce.

MANURING OF PADDY

The increase of the country's food supply is at present a problem of some emergency. Rice is India's most important food crop and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research recently started inquiries to find out how best to improve rice yields by manurial treatment. Examination of the vast amount of data collected revealed certain useful features, a summary of which in the form of a bulletin entitled Manuring of Paddy has been published.

It is found that out of the three important food elements of plants—nitrogen, phosphorous and potash—only the first two are required by paddy crops, and often the need for a combination of both these elements is indicated. The utility of green manures ("dhaincha" Sunn-hemp, etc.) has been fully established, and in Bihar a net profit of Rs. 10 to 15 per acre has been obtained by green manuring alone.

CAUVERY WATER FOR PUDUKOTTAM

The Government of Madras have informed the Pudukottah Durbar that they are prepared to supply water from the Cauvery to certain areas in the State on payment of a cess of Rs. 10 per acre.

In the Legislative Council, the Assistant Administrator stated that the Madras Government had agreed to supply the Cauvery water for certain enclaves if a cess of Rs. 15 per acre was paid, but the ryots could not afford to pay it and the Durbar had sought the good offices of the Resident, Madras States, to move the Madras Government to reduce the rate.

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN GERMANY

COOCH BEHAR.

AGE OF RETIREMENT

Facts regarding labour conditions in Germany revealed in London by a Ministry of Economic Warfare official, show that despite its dictatorial powers, Nazi Government has not been able to achieve 100 per cent. control of the workers' movement and to use all skilled labour.

Wages are fixed and it is illegal for employers to pay more, but, according to information received in London, a tremendous amount of overtime is being worked. Hours in factories vary between 10 and 12 daily, and the Government has been compelled to make concessions concerning overtime pay. Reports have been received of signs of fatigue among workers.

It is understood that Germany added three million to its labour forces since the war or 10 per cent. above the pre-war figures. They consist of a million foreigners, a million prisoners of war engaged on civil work and a million extra German workers, who had retired or who were not in the usual way available. The total number of women employed is now 800,000 more than at the beginning of the war.

SINHALESE WORKERS

There were 40,000 unemployed in Colombo, but the Minister of Local Administration, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranayake, cannot find one Sinhalese to work in his garden. He tried two Sinhalese youths from his own village in his garden in Colombo, but both went away complaining of the difficulty to sweep and draw water.

These statements were made by Mr. Bandaranayake, speaking at a meeting at Kalutara.

There were 900,000 Indians employed in Ceylon while Sinhalese were starving for want of work. Yet this weakness existed. Was it surprising they were declining, he asked.

12 HOUR DAY FOR SHOP EMPLOYEES

The Bengal Shops and Establishments Act came into force in Calcutta and Howrah recently. According to the rules, shops and establishments will remain open for 12 hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and employees will have holiday for a day and a half in the week.

Sir Jeremy Baisman, Finance Member, stated in the Central Assembly that "while persons recruited on or after April 1, 1938, or who were not in permanent service on that date cannot be retained in Government service after the age of 55th year, except on recorded public grounds, persons in permanent service on that date can be considered for such retention after attaining 55 years and upto the age of 60 years provided they continue to be efficient."

PORTRAITS AND LOCAL BODIES

The Government of Madras have issued orders banning the incurring of expenditure by local bodies in connexion with the installation of portraits of any public men or leaders.

The only portraits which are allowed in the offices of local bodies or institutions run by them in future are those of Their Majesties the King and Queen.

Where portraits are presented from private funds, previous sanction of the Government is required for their acceptance by local bodies.

INDIAN STUDENTS FROM ENGLAND

A number of Indian students from England arrived in Bombay on April 18.

They testified to the nonchalance with which Britain is taking the Nazi air *blitz*.

A Bombay student, Mr. M. M. Wagle, revealed that he was one of the four students trapped under the debris when the Indian Students' Hostel in London was bombed in September last. The sirens that night were sounded frequently and most of the students had gone into shelter. Mr. Wagle and three others were sleeping on the ground-floor lounge when a bomb burst and the ceiling collapsed.

THE FAMOUS YOUNGSTERS

Statistics seem to prove that the younger sons of families are better equipped with brains than their elder brothers. Among the famous younger brothers are Julius Caesar, Abraham Lincoln, Napoleon, Shakespeare, Nelson, George Bernard Shaw, Charles Darwin, George Washington, and Marshal Foch.

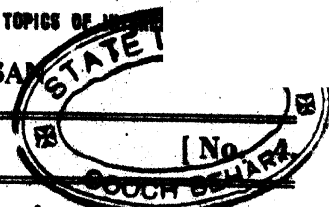
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The Problem of Nutrition in India

BY ACHARYA SIR P. C. RAY

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ONE of the most important problems on which attention has been focussed throughout the world during the last 2 or 3 decades is the question of nutrition. Elusive chemical substances called vitamins present in natural food materials have been recognised only during the present century. That proteins from different sources are not equivalent but they may differ so greatly from one another as to make a tremendous difference in nutrition was also recognised during the last few decades. The realisation is, therefore, being brought home in all countries of the world that

attention must be paid, not only to the quantitative aspect of the question but also to the qualitative side. It is a

question not only of enough food being supplied but also of the right kind of food.

It so happens, however, that the food materials required in order to supply energy and bulk are fairly cheap, being derived mainly from cereals like rice, wheat, etc. These are very rich in carbohydrates which constitute mainly the fuel of the food. Fats are also necessary and they too also



ACHARYA P. C. RAY

serve as fuel, but being weight for weight more energy-yielding than are the carbohydrates of cereals, their

requirement is quantitatively less and this is good, as fats are usually more costly than the carbo-hydrate-bearing materials. But so far as proteins are concerned, which are essential for nutrition and serve not merely as energy-producers but as tissue-builders, the question is more difficult. It has been scientifically determined that proteins derived from animal sources like milk, eggs, fish, meat, etc., are of a higher biological value than proteins derived from vegetable sources. The difficulty is, that it is precisely these materials like milk, eggs, etc., which contain the better proteins that are considerably dearer than the plant sources which supply the vegetable proteins. In general, again, no food materials which contain either class of proteins are cheaper than cereals which supply the carbo-hydrates. The same applies in a general way to the question of vitamins which are essential for life-growth and good health. They are derived usually from food-stuffs like wheat, pulses, eggs, carrots, green leafy vegetables, milk and liver oils. It has been found by Sir John Orr and other investigators that even in such a relatively rich country as Great Britain, nearly half the population lives below the normal nutrition level, particularly with reference to proteins, vitamins and certain essential minerals like calcium and phosphorus, because the people cannot afford the more costly food-stuff. The curves of nutritional level and income level of different groups of population were to be uncannily similar. This would, indeed, show strikingly that the problem of nutrition is not only a scientific problem but also a social problem, which cannot be tackled unless a social system, in which "in plethora plenty people perish", is radically altered.

Even the League of Nations (which is now practically defunct) also recognised this position and although it is a conservative body, it did feel that the world produces sufficient food-stuffs for the proper nutrition of the people, but that the income of vast sections of the population is so low that they cannot afford to try these food-stuffs.

A balanced diet must contain sufficient good protein (about 100 grams per adult per day), carbo-hydrates, fat, vitamins and minerals like calcium, phosphorus, iron and iodine. McCarrison observed long ago that the diets usually consumed in all parts of India, except in the Punjab, were deficient in more than one important ingredient. For instance, young rats, which were allowed to grow on a typical Madrassi diet, made a very poor show. The Bengali diet was slightly better. The Mahrathi diet was still better and the Punjabi diet was the best, being superior to an average European diet. Considering, however, that Madras has produced some of the best intellects of India, like Ramanujam and Raman, it would seem that even better results might have been expected from such a talented section of the Indian people if their diet normally supplied was of optimum nutrition. So far as proteins are concerned, although I am a fish-eating Bengalee, I do not hold the brief necessarily for flesh foods. Vegetarians abound in Madras and they can obtain good proteins from animal foods like milk and eggs. If milk and milk preparations form an adequate proportion of the daily diet, there would be no question of deficiency of good proteins. If, in addition, eggs are taken by vegetarians, so much the better.

So far as the diets of different sections of the Indian people are concerned, it may in general be stated that a diet containing whole wheat, rice, millets, pulses, some root vegetables, green vegetables, fruits and milk or milk preparations would provide an adequate diet. If, in addition, eggs, fish and meat may be added to the diet, it would be still better. On the question of protein, I would only draw attention to the fact that, although the minimum amount of protein required for keeping the adult in nitrogen-balance may be of the order of 45 grams a day, yet the trend of reform in practically all countries is in the direction of considerably increasing the daily protein allowance so that optimum protein consumption may be assured. This seems to be a step in the right direction. The allowance of protein per day in Japan and Siam, which are Eastern countries, has been recommended to be of the order of 100 grams a day. The nutritional experts of the Soviet Union have recommended a figure even higher than one hundred. I have alluded to this point in slightly greater detail, because there have been attempts in this country by people including pseudo-scientists, who recommended a figure as low as even 60 grams. This only helps to keep the social conscience in India from being roused, as the protein consumption depends on the question of income and therefore the lower the protein allowance recommended, the less is the indignation against that political and economic system, which has made us the poorest people of the world.

* There have been attempts in this country to prescribe what we call just an adequate diet at a low cost. While,

of course, such prescriptions are necessary for the guidance of the vast mass of poor people in this country, it should be clearly realised that such adequate diets are something different from really optimum diets. An optimum diet is such as will not merely just prevent frank deficiency diseases but would allow us to attain the best possible standard of growth, health and vigour within the limits set by heredity. It is now known that there is a large "no man's land" between frank illness and optimum health, and it is possible to be well without being as healthy as an optimum diet would have permitted. Under such conditions one is less energetic, less efficient and more prone to fatigue and infections than one would be on a diet affording optimum nutrition. The social conscience throughout the world has now been awakened not simply for providing just adequate diets but for providing optimum diets.

This brings us again to the social problem of nutrition to which I have referred above. Obviously prescribing an optimum diet is not enough. Society must be so organised that all people in the world do get this optimum diet. This cannot be done unless the system based on vested interest disappears and a system run in the interest of the community comes into its place. The bogey that has been raised in some interested quarters saying that the world is over-populated and has out-stripped the supply of food-stuffs should be ignored. Vaviloff, the Russian geneticist, calculated that if scientific agriculture by modern methods were adopted throughout the world and waste lands were utilised, then it could support 10 times the present population of the world. And if even the natural

food products fail us, even wood can be made to supply sugar as is now being done in Germany by the process of Bergius, and there is no inherent impossibility of making food from air. What is required, therefore, at the present moment is the establishment of a society where the interest of the community would be paramount and the use of scientific principles and methods would be universal.

Let us not say, however, that because circumstances in India are difficult, therefore we should not try to do our best. Progressive countries have taken concerted measures to improve the diet, particularly of their growing population, *viz.*, children and adolescents. In England, the Government gives very cheap milk to tens of thousands of school children. In France, the municipalities did the same. In the United States, similar measures have been taken. In Japan, the entire young population is specially attended to. The Soviet Union has about a dozen nutrition institutes. Japan has got an Imperial Institute of Nutrition and nutrition laboratories are abundant in America. This would indicate the lines on which we might ourselves advance in India. Even if the Government does not help us, there is no reason why municipalities like the Calcutta Corporation and the Madras Corporation might not systematically spend a part of their income in supplying a good

milk diet either free or at a low cost to the children. There could be established free milk kitchens, particularly for infants who need it most. There could be established community restaurants by the Corporation or any other body on a non-profit basis, where, particularly in busy and congested areas, the people could get meals which are prepared under scientific supervision with due regard to their nutritive value and their palatability. These are some measures which may be taken certainly by the Central and Provincial Governments and, if not by them, even by the big City Corporations of India. If they do so, then the municipalities in the mofossil might also follow their example. It seems that there has been a gradual awakening of the public mind with reference to the appalling prevalence of mal-nutrition and under-nutrition in this country, but mere awakening will not do unless it crystallises into action.

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INDIA'S FINANCES

BY DR. P. S. LOKANATHAN

(Acting Professor of Economics, Madras University)

IN the midst of one of the greatest wars in history, it must be gratifying to note that India's finances remain not only unbattered and unshaken but appear to be extraordinarily strong and sound. The war has undoubtedly increased the scale of her expenditure and has brought about a diminution in revenues in some cases. But, on the other hand, it has also increased the income of the people of India and her taxable capacity; while the people have been willing to bear additional burdens of taxation and to accept new schemes of taxation.

The credit of India, which has always stood high, thanks to the extremely conservative and orthodox methods of financial administration pursued by her finance member, has been greatly strengthened on account of the large sterling balances which she has been able to accumulate. The scheme of repatriation of sterling debt, which the Government of India has been able to put through, is not only in itself a financial measure of no mean significance but has rendered her budgetary and ways and means position very much easier in the future. It has resulted in a definite saving of interest, reduced the burden of foreign obligations and released the rupee-exchange from its continuous nightmare of depreciation. What a momentous change has repatriation brought about in the future of Indian exchange will be clear from the fact that while even in the current year only £1 million has to be remitted to the Secretary of State, in the next year the Government of India expects a refund

from London of over £26 millions, and this is a bullish factor in the rupee-sterling exchange. There are critics of the repatriation scheme who argue, firstly, that we had to pay a high premium for those sterling securities instead of purchasing them at par; secondly, that we should have used our foreign balances to import machinery and thereby accelerate industrialisation; and, thirdly, that it was more to the benefit of Great Britain than to India. To all such, the answer may be made that considering the fact that the holders of the sterling stock were not bound to sell before the due dates which, in some cases, were as late as 1950 and the saving of interest to India is immediate, the prices paid were not excessive; secondly, that although much could have been done by the Government of India in the early months of the war, it may be difficult now, with Europe prostrate and America bending all her energies to speed up production for war purposes, for India to import machinery on any large scale and in any case it is almost impossible for her to digest as much as 180 crores of capital goods in a short period of two or three years; and thirdly, that the fact that it was to Britain's advantage does not minimise the gains to India.

The most significant feature in the budget presented in March by the Finance Member to the Government of India has been the very considerable fall in the revenue from customs and the very significant rise in defence expenditure. Both are the direct outcome of the War.

Customs duties yielded as much as Rs. 46 crores in 1938-39. In the current year the yield was only 37½ crores, while in the next year it is likely to shrink further to 34½ crores. This fall by nearly 25 per cent. is the result of a number of causes all traceable to the war—the restriction of imports, the lack of shipping, the inevitable cutting off of supplies from countries which had been formerly supplying India. The defence expenditure has increased from the normal scale of Rs. 45 crores to Rs. 72 crores in the current year and is expected to mount up to Rs. 84 crores in the next year. No one can assert that for the defence of a country like ours at a time like the present Rs. 84 crores is too high. The only question is whether even on the present scale of expenditure, India can be said to be fully prepared; but that is a question irrelevant to the purposes of this article.

How has the growing gap between expenditure and revenues been filled by the Government of India? Was it all met only by loans or by taxes or partly by taxes and partly by loans? If by taxes, were they such as may be regarded as equitable and fair, and as throwing the burden upon classes who have the capacity to bear them? On the whole the budget presented by the Finance Member comes out satisfactorily judged by proper canons of taxation. Some of the taxes had already been imposed during the current year and are only continued for the next year. The increase in postal rates is of all the additions imposed least desirable as it is a tax on education and communication of thought—intangible no doubt but not for that reason to be slighted. India

cannot bear more than a half-anna post card and anna letter. Anything more is a heavy impost. The new excess profits duty has not yielded much during the current year on account of certain administrative difficulties which only now have been set right; but the surcharge on income-tax has naturally brought the anticipated addition as no new machinery had to be devised. The deficiency in customs revenue was only slightly made up by increases from currency and mint, Posts and Telegraphs, etc., while the revenue from sugar excise had fallen to Rs. 8'15 crores as against an estimate of 5'25 crores. But the Government of India have been rescued from a difficult situation on account of the large contribution from Railways, which not only were able to make the usual contribution based on 1 per cent. on the total capital outlay but to add it a further sum by way of refund and an additional share. This large contribution was made possible, not only on account of the large movement of goods and increased passenger traffic but also on account of the increase in the railway charges levied last year.

The current year is expected to result in a deficit of 8½ crores of rupees, but in view of the provision of Rs. 3 crores for a sinking fund towards reduction of debt which will now not be utilised for the purpose, the net deficit is of the order of 5½ crores and this deficit remains uncovered and will be balanced by borrowing. For the coming year the expenditure including that for defence is Rs. 127 crores while on the present basis and levels of taxation the revenue is to be Rs. 106½ crores, leaving a deficit of Rs. 20½ crores. The Finance Member has proposed to wipe out the deficit to the extent of a

little over 6½ crores by fresh and additional taxation leaving about 14 crores to be got from borrowing. Purists will say that the whole of this gap between receipts and expenditure must be met by taxation; but upon the whole in view of the fact that the financial position of India is exceptionally strong and that excessive taxation might affect adversely industrial development, the danger of an unbalanced budget is not serious. Of the tax proposals, no objection could be taken against either an increase in the Excess Profits duty from the old 50 per cent. rate to 66½ per cent. rate or to an increase in the surcharge on income-tax from 25 per cent. to 38½ per cent. The new excise duty on pneumatic tyres and tubes is perfectly justified as on account of the war, imports have been reduced and the present producers are reaping large gains. The increase in the duty of artificial silk yarn and thread has the effect of aiding the Indian cotton textile industry which, but for the war, would have continued to be in a difficult plight. The only duty to which, on grounds of equity, exception could be taken in the increase in the excise duty on matches; but it has the saving quality of productivity and the incidence of the tax falls lightly on the shoulders of the masses. The tax is really a tax on cigarette smokers and, therefore, falls on those who may not mind it much. On the whole, the fresh taxation imposed may all be defended on the ground that the alternatives are not likely to be very much better.

The budgets of the provinces reveal paradoxically enough a better state of affairs this year than at any time since the beginning of provincial autonomy.

Two or three factors were primarily responsible for this. There has been no serious famine in any part of India and the monsoons were both favourable and appeared at the right time. The old dictum of Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson that the Indian budget is a gamble in rains is still applicable to provincial budgets. The Punjab, whose finances had been badly affected by three years of successive famine, has been immune for the first time this year. Secondly, the provincial share of income-tax increased during the year and every province was able to get increased receipts, thanks largely to the large surplus from Railways. Thirdly, many of the provincial governments had embarked upon new schemes of taxation, with a view to their undertaking nation-building activities, and these taxes are now bearing fruit while the need which brought them into existence have either ceased or greatly diminished. Thus in Madras and Bombay, the financing of Prohibition required the levy of new taxes—the General Sales Tax in Madras and the Property Tax in Bombay—and they have proved to be remarkably productive. The result of all the above factors is that, for the first time after many years, all provinces, except Assam, enjoy a surplus budget, and even chronically deficit provinces like Sind and Orissa have this year had balanced budgets.

The interruption to the beneficent work of Congress Ministries on account of their resignation, and the administration of several provinces by Advisers, has necessarily led to a slowing down of the pace of expenditure on developmental functions. But in some provinces, notably in Madras, the budget reveals not merely an inherently sound financial position but a

continuance of the policies that inspired the popular Ministry. The financial statement issued by the Government of Madras in March this year is notable for many sound features, although it is characterised by conservative and even extreme caution. Madras has paid in the past a heavy price for its excessive purity and financial integrity, and the present budget reveals the same tendency to utilise revenue surplus for capital expenditures, which had been characteristic of previous administrations. The creation of a Revenue Reserve Fund to which the surplus, after deducting cost of collection of the Sales Tax and the financing the loss from Prohibition is to be credited, is undoubtedly a wise and praiseworthy step. As much as Rs. 1 crore will accrue to the fund. From the financial point of view, it is also wholly to be approved as marking one more step in the scheme of planned finance. Instead of abolishing the Sales Tax, as some critics desired—a step which would have been very reactionary—the Government have done well in setting it aside for the future. The only danger is that in schemes of Federal Finance, Madras, which on account of excessive prudence lays by moneys for the future, finds herself always handicapped every time financial readjustments are made. The spendthrift has always been benefitted at the expense of the frugal, and it is to be hoped that no raid will be made on this Fund and that this Reserve will not be used as an argument against an equitable distribution between the Centre and Madras. Another notable

feature in the budget is the provision for land colonisation scheme. The increased grant to education, the continuance of the grant to hand-spinning, the placing of funds to the co-operative building societies are only a few of the many useful lines of expenditure provided in the budget. The provision of Rs. 10 lakhs to the Rural Water Supply Fund is another welcome step, and on the whole the Madras Government have only continued the policies pursued by the Congress Ministers, and even in the continuance of land revenue concessions, they have only followed the previous government, though it is time that the rate is permanently scaled down.

It is not necessary to refer at length to the finances of other provinces. Bengal has yet to face squarely the problem of new taxation. She has been content to follow the beaten track with the result that for a province of that size and population, the scale of expenditure still remains unduly low. Bombay has been able to reduce slightly the rates of property tax. Bihar has had to suffer on account of the depression and confusion in the sugar industry and has borrowed from the Government of India with a view to rehabilitating the industry. But no fresh taxation has been imposed. Indeed, no province has imposed any additional burden or embarked upon schemes of fresh taxation. All provinces have been content to carry on with existing resources. On account, however, of favourable conditions, these resources have not only not declined but have actually increased.

THE FUTURE OF INDIAN POLITICS

BY MR. DIP CHAND VERMA, M.A.

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THE future of Indian Politics would now be decisively influenced by two great events. The first is the European war in which England has been inevitably involved. Somehow Indian parties and leaders have failed to pull their full weight in this great event. At heart, India has been always convinced of the righteousness of the cause on which Britain and her Allies have taken their stand. The best mind of India—Gandhi, Nehru, Tagore—has always been opposed to Fascism and Nazism. Nehru in particular has strong views in the matter and he carried his convictions so far as to refuse to meet Mussolini during his last visit to Europe, when the Duce specially invited the Indian leader to his place. It is a tragedy that such a man should be behind bars, when democracy is in a life and death grip with totalitarianism. It is a failure of British and Indian statesmanship alike. There is no doubt that Gandhi is equally anti-fascist and feels strongly for the democratic cause. But in spite of this, he had to launch a movement of civil-disobedience against the British Government in India, because British statesmen are still moving around the old ruts and refuse to adjust themselves to a fast changing situation.

Other important groups and parties are no less sympathetic to the democratic cause. The Hindu Mahasabha, the Muslim League, the Liberal Federation, the Indian Christians, the Sikhs, the Princes, in fact anybody who counts in India, has openly expressed in favour of the British cause. But these sympathies have not sufficed to resolve the Indian tangle and, if anything, the situation is fast deteriorating.

British statesmanship has no doubt been bankrupt so far as India is concerned, but political bankruptcy has not been confined to the British side alone. The Indian leadership has been equally sterile and ineffective. The first instinct of Mahatma Gandhi, when he offered unconditional co-operation to the Viceroy, was correct.

Had the Congress Working Committee approved of that position, the present situation would have been quite different. The Congress protested that it was making any bargain out of the war, but the Congress demand on the Government constituted nothing but bargaining pure and simple. Once the greatest political party came down to this level, other groups like the Hindu Mahasabha and the Muslim League could not be expected to do better. The whole political situation deteriorated suddenly, and the British, ever ready to take advantage of Indian differences, exploited the situation to the full, so that it has culminated into the present impasse.

I do not think the British Cabinet was well advised to adopt the tactics it has adopted towards India. Mr. Winston Churchill is a great leader and deserves to be ranked amongst the greatest Englishmen of all times; like William Pitt, Marlborough, and Cromwell. He has given a most inspiring lead to his country and has marvellously reorganized the Empire resources in the great struggle against Hitlerism. Towards India, his attitude has been extremely disappointing; still John Bullish, still the Churchill of the Round Table Conference and the Act of 1935. It is a pity that a man so great in other ways should have proved so small in his dealings with India.

But the Indian leaders should have come forward in spite of Churchill. Indian leaders and parties should have presented a united front on the war issue. The August offer of the Viceroy, not itself important materially, was important in as far as it provided a common meeting place for Indian parties, and once the Congress and the Muslim League were brought together, the united national front, which the *sine qua non* of Indian freedom, would have automatically developed. Committed as the British Parliament is, for the establishment of dominion status after this war, it could not have evaded this commitment in view of the overwhelming national opinion that would

have demanded the fulfilment of its promise forthwith.

The Congress, however, chose the path of non-co-operation, and civil disobedience has been revived under the Gandhian leadership. Whatever may be the merits and demerits of the issue on which the Congress high command has thought fit to precipitate the struggle, the event would have a decisive influence on the future of Indian politics. Not even the Mahatma claims that his present move would enable the country to realise Swaraj. It is only a protest against Britain not conceding the right of freedom of speech to the Indian people. If the British win this war—and the chances are that they would win it—they would find at the end of the war that India is hopelessly divided and incapable of resisting effectively any constitution that they choose to set up. In the second place, at least the Congress would not have the moral right to demand anything from the British, as the latter would have won the war, not because of the Congress but in spite of the Congress. Other groups, the Muslims, for instance, who are co-operating, would succeed in winning favours for themselves and that would be an additional set-back to Indian nationalism.

If, on the other hand, the British should lose this war, which God forbid, the question of Indian freedom would disappear like the morning mist, and the world would be dominated by forces that would initiate an era of unprecedented aggression and tyranny. All the worse for the country that at so critical a time in the history of the world, its national will should be paralysed by an idealistic leadership that steadily pursues a mirage, without looking to the actual conditions that obtain in the world horizon.

At present there is little possibility of putting the various Indian parties on the same platform. Their plans and programmes are mutually contradictory. The Congress has by its Satyagraha campaign entered a lane in which there is no turning. The struggle has been precipitated on the issue of the freedom of speech and when the war has been concluded and the freedom of speech restored, the movement should automatically wind up. As a matter of

fact, as the past history of the movement of civil disobedience shows, the issues change as the struggle thickens and ultimately the movement peters out due to sheer exhaustion. The Congress is then forcibly driven to the constitutional or semi-constitutional path for fear of being completely annihilated.

The Muslim League is out for an Utopia and has made no practical contribution to resolve the deadlock. As a matter of fact, the League itself is mainly responsible for the present phase of Indian politics, as it has always provided the British diehards with the strongest argument to withhold Indian freedom. The demand for the establishment of Pakistan, or a separate homeland for the Muslims, merely shows the desperate position to which Indian affairs have been driven. Psychologists inform us that an object suffering from the inferiority complex behaves with aggression. The Muslims for years have been told by an interested leadership that they are in a hopeless minority and that in a free India they would be reduced to abject slavery by the Hindu majority. This propaganda has had its effect and now it has been possible for Mr. Jinnah to persuade a large section of the Muslim community to put forward a demand, which, on the face of it, is utterly absurd.

Other groups and sects have come forward with similar particularist claims and the result has been that the British have felt justified to maintain the *status quo*, without entertaining any claim, communal or national. It sufficed them to leave the whole initiative to the Indian leaders themselves, who should produce a scheme on which all the communities may substantially agree.

The present was an occasion neither for the satyagraha crusade, which can lead us nowhere, nor for the Pakistan stunt, which nobody can take seriously. It was a time when the Indian leaders should have put their heads together and framed a constitution for themselves, in which the majority and minority interests could be reconciled without tampering with the essential unity

of the country. The basic principles of the new constitution for free India should first be thrashed out in a small representative conference of the various communities, which may later be submitted to the National Constituent Assembly. The Muslim fears must be first allayed; they must be given practical proof of Hindu sincerity. They must feel assured that in the free India, their religion, culture and material interests would be perfectly safe. There was a great opportunity to do this, if in 1937 the Congress had come forward with a gesture and offered to form coalition ministries in the provinces instead of insisting exclusively on Congress governments. This was a time when the Muslim League had done badly in the provincial elections and the Congress gesture of friendship would have been greatly appreciated. There are many people in this country who sincerely believe that the parliamentary government of the majority rule is not suited to Indian conditions. Democracy can succeed in India only when a parliamentary understanding between the various communities with statutory guarantee of their rights has been arrived at. Amongst other things, it must provide coalition ministries in the province and, in the second place, it must provide for the greatest amount of local and provincial autonomy. The powers and functions of the central government must be reduced to the utmost possible, provision being made only that in the last resort the national will must be allowed to assert itself through the federal government.

In a recent speech, Mr. Jinnah *inter alia* remarked:

The idea of a unitary central government was dead, but if it was revived, the Muslims would resist it, as the Hindu minorities would make it impossible for the government to run with the aid of the central government with the Hindu majority at their back, and the Muslim majority would be virtually feudatories of the central government in all respects.

Nobody aims to establish a centralized unitary government in India with a view to tyrannise over the minorities. The future government of India must essentially

be of the federal type, in which the greatest scope must be given to local autonomy. The Congress is opposed to the present constitution not on account of its federal nature. The Congress aims to establish a real federation based on the principle of democracy and not autocracy as is at present the case. Mr. Jinnah must remember one thing: There is not the least likelihood of the tyranny of the central government over the provinces in a really democratic federal constitution. In the second place, Mr. Jinnah's fears of Hindu majority are mainly imaginary. When he claims protection for the Muslim minority, he must concede the same to the Hindu minorities in the Muslim majority provinces. What we really need is that the federal constitution of India should be so framed as not only to protect the provinces against unnecessary intrusion from the centre, but also to statutorily provide for coalition governments in the provinces, so that all minorities would be actively associated with the provincial administration. This must be provided at least for the initial stages for a fixed number of years. If by actual working, it is found that political parties tend to develop on a non-communal and non-religious basis, coalition ministries on the communal basis would be replaced by other combinations mainly based on well-marked political and economic principles. The provision of coalition ministries, however, would have served its purpose by bringing the communities together and thus ushering in the era of political freedom.

The federal government must be left with necessary powers, in the first place, to prevent the secession of any unit and, in the second place, to see that in the provinces the spirit of the constitutional act is not violated. Without these provisions, no constitution can work, but after conceding this there is no reason why the greatest scope should not be given to the principle of local and provincial autonomy.

It is on these lines that the future constitution of India must be drafted whenever the next opportunity presents itself.

THE ART OF PEARL BUCK

BY

MR. P. R. KRISHNASWAMY, M.A.

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ACCORDING to the will of Alfred Nobel, the annual prize for literature should go to the person who has produced the most distinguished work of an idealistic tendency. This idealism occurs more naturally in the picture of the poor classes than in that of the higher classes, and the award for 1940 has been made to a Finnish writer of peasant life. Of writers on poor life within recent years, we have Mary Webb, the reputation of whose books was deservedly advanced by the former British Premier, Baldwin. The difference between Mary Webb and Pearl Buck is the difference between a gloomy world, characteristically Germanic, and a bright one presided over by the beneficent Vishnu. Charles Dickens is notable in English literature for depicting the life of the poor, but the poor of his books are migrating to the city and getting absorbed in that larger world. Thomas Hardy has, indeed, immortalised the life of the rural folk of the Wessex country in his novels. But Hardy has definitely the tendency to mix his rural heroes and heroines with romance that comes of books and sophistication. He keeps apart in every story a special group of rustics who retain their rusticity throughout, but the behaviour of the principal characters is not really rustic at all. Even if the picture is conceded to be genuinely rustic, Hardy's style is peculiarly unsuited to a narrative of rural life. It is learned and heavy and stands out apart from the world it describes.

Pearl Buck is the second American within recent years to win the Nobel Prize, but the writings of Sinclair Lewis are concerned with American life, while the glory of Pearl Buck lies in her picture of China. In the novels of Lewis, the European woman is depicted as showing a definite romantic turn about her fortieth year, whereas in Mrs. Buck's Chinese stories, it is the man who grows romantic as he grows older, and turns to other women than his wife.

Pearl Buck's novels fall easily into two classes, one which describes Chinese life and another which is of subjective interest. 'The Good Earth', 'The Mother' and 'The Patriot' are of the first class, as 'The Exile', 'The Fighting Angel', and 'The Proud Heart' are of the second. The personal life of the author may be inferred to some extent from the second set of novels, and they serve to explain some peculiar tendencies in the Chinese novels. "The Exile" depicts an American wife in China, who struggles against odds, including a husband foolish in many ways and preserves her cheerfulness in her surroundings. From this picture it is easy to pass to the womanly martyr, who is the centre of interest in each of her Chinese novels.

Pearl Buck is the apostle of the domestic life of rural China. Hardly any detail escapes her painting. Her language is peculiarly adapted to her purpose. The study of it would enable one for instance to write on Indian life in English. 'The Good Earth' shows how the life of the peasant is intimately bound up with the soil. All the changes of the weather and of the seasons, with the corresponding changes of vegetation in the soil, dominate the life of the peasant. His attachment to the soil transcends ordinary reality. It is his waking and sleeping dream.

'The Good Earth' starts with the marriage of Wang Lung with the slave girl of a rich house. The old woman of the house parts with the slave, only because she is actuated by what will be regarded a Hindu sentiment, the acquiring of virtue (*gunyam*) by helping the growth of the race. The shyness of the bride is exactly the shyness of the traditional Hindu bride. She labours hard for the family, both in the field and in the home, bearing children also regularly. A famine befalls the country, and the family is reduced to despair and migrates to the south. Wang Lung tries to make a living by

pulling the rickshaw, while his children and wife also struggle hard to earn their living. Then a revolution breaks out and with it plunder. Wang Lung obtains sufficient money to return hopefully to his home in the north.

In the third part of the story, we witness the quick growth to prosperity and with prosperity new troubles arise. Wang Lung is dissatisfied with his plain wife and seeks pleasure in a girl picked up at a tea-shop and brought home to live with the family. Olan the wife has added insults to endure. The eldest son also turned to the father's concubine in lust, "for vice comes only to young lords", and the father sends him away to a distant part of the country.

The martyrdom of the wife is the conspicuous feature of the story. She endures silently the vagaries of her husband. She has long kept a couple of pearls, the last of a number of jewels, with which the husband has bought lands. The husband asks for the pearls so that he may make a present of them to the woman who has become his favourite. The husband demands the pearls of her while Olan is engaged in washing clothes. After a short remonstrance, she parts with them:

But Olan returned to the beating of the clothes and when tears dropped slowly and heavily from her eyes, she did not put up her hand to wipe them away, only she beat the more steadily with her wooden stick upon the clothes spread over the stone.

She never tells the husband of the agony in her heart, though he can learn of it if he cast his eyes around. Once he gets a bitter reminder from his own younger daughter. This girl crying with pain attracts the father's notice and she complains that her mother has bound her feet and she has told her that if she will not endure the pain patiently, she may forfeit the affections of her husband to be, the same way her mother has lost her father's. Olan falls ill with a serious illness and the doctor is fetched. He demands five hundred pieces of silver before he can undertake to cure her.

Now when Olan heard the words, 'five hundred pieces of silver', she came suddenly out of her languor and she said weakly: 'No, and my life is not worth so much.'

This selfless woman has a will of the strangest strength, and she will hold her breath till her dearest wish in behalf of her family is fulfilled. Her ghost departs in peace only when her eldest son's bride is fetched home and both son and daughter-in-law sit on her bed and offer her comfort. Though the wife is a martyr, the husband is not a villain. The wife's death fills him with grief and with repentance. "And suddenly he wept a little, and he dried his eyes with the back of his hand as a child does." The last section of the novel is concerned with Wang Lung's life in the city to which he migrates with his sons and daughters and daughters-in-law. The joint family with the inevitable bickerings between the wives of brothers presents problems very much like those we know in India, though in China there is the further complication caused by the presence of slave girls in the rich families. War and revolution and the invasion by soldiers of peaceful homes are other features of the story.

Like other modern women novelists perhaps, Pearl Buck faces sex problems with courage and explains them not less effectively than Havelock Ellis or Marie Stopes. The hunger of Wang Lung continues to his very old age, and Pearl Blossom a young and pretty slave girl, prefers to live with the old man to being married to a younger man. A noteworthy figure in the novel is an imbecile girl as in Wordsworth or Rabin-drath Tagore. The problem of looking after the imbecile weighs on the father and the mother. The father arranges to have her poisoned after his own death. A similar creation is the blind girl in "The Mother", who is the cause of infinite pathos.

To know in detail the customs of the Chinese and of the poor in special, we may turn confidently to Pearl Buck. The simple marriage customs, the crude worship of God, the constant reminders of death in the making of cere-cloths and coffins in anticipation of it, the obvious inferiority of status to which girls are doomed and the simple acceptance by women of child-bearing as their greatest task, all are

conveyed to us without effort in the course of an absorbing story.

When we turn to "The Mother", we come to a simpler story, and for that simplicity, better constructed. It is a story of touching pathos. It is so simple and so lucid in the telling that the author has dispensed entirely with names for her characters. Once again the woman is the mainstay of the home. She bears the burden of three generations, her husband's father and mother, the husband himself and his children. This domestic heroine knows how to make the last days of her husband's parent happy with prompt attention and assuaging speech. She bears children regularly without a murmur and even without aid from others, though the comradeship among women is strong and every one stands by every other. The daily domestic tasks are described minutely. Hot water is made in the morning and it is a luxury to put a few tea leaves in it before drinking it. Then the food is cooked and served, first to the oldest member of the house, then to the children, and later to the husband, and last to herself. Even after they have eaten their food the children cling to the mother while she is eating and relish specially little morsels handed to them by the mother. Life does not seem to lose its charm for the mother at any time, but with the husband it is different. He suffers from boredom quickly. It is necessary to remember that the Chinese woman marries usually one younger than herself, reversing the old Shakespearian maxim:

Let still the woman take
An elder than herself, so wears she to him,
So sways she level in her husband's heart.

The Chinese wife can caress her younger husband and beat him and scratch him sometimes in a fit of anger, but all the same, her wifely devotion is ideal. The husband in "The Mother" makes his escape from the boredom of his home, never to return. The way in which the wife takes this desertion is sketched with extraordinary fidelity. The agony in her heart is so sacred that she will not share it with any other. For years she keeps up

appearances that the husband has gone only with her knowledge and must return some time. She resorts to desperate measures to keep up the delusion among the villagers, forging letters with the help of a letter-writer in another town. She wearies of this at last and feels she cannot deceive herself further. In the second part of the book, we see the mother yielding herself to the passion of the land-agent who arrives in the village to collect taxes. The same instinct of motherhood, which has hitherto preserved her as an ideal wife, induces her also to go astray. Has she not as an unmarried girl tried to soothe a child entrusted to her by offering her breast to drink from? The sin is atoned for by severe repentance and the normal course of life is resumed, though this is destined to be affected in other ways. The last part of the story is engulfed in utter pathos. The mother is overwhelmed with grief on account of both her younger children. The daughter is blind and nobody will wed her, and a girl in China can remain unmarried no more than in India. She is given away to the most unpromising and wretched of husbands, to suffer the most miserable treatment in his home. Thinking of her, the mother starts on a fateful trip to see her in her husband's home. After a long and terrible journey, she arrives at the destination only to learn that the daughter has just died. The other misery is the execution of her son as a revolutionary.

Attention may be drawn here to an aspect of careful construction showing the novelist's foresight. The matter of blindness of the daughter, destined to overshadow the evening of the mother's existence, grows from the beginning of the story. The child is alive to intense irritation in the eyes, but fate overrules the chance of medical treatment in the early stages. The father has had eye-trouble himself and he is certain no one can die thereby. For long it is not realised that the girl is absolutely blind, till finally it is borne in on all, in all its awful truth. Similarly, the desertion by the husband has its origin pretty early in the story.

The peasant life of China, like the peasant life of any other country, is nearest the eternal facts of life and Pearl Buck's novels must enjoy the immortality of her theme. But the author's literary powers demand fresh woods and pastures new. Already in "The Good Earth," ancient China is shown as affected by war and the enlistment of new armies. More exciting is the execution of the revolutionary in "The Mother". In "The Patriot", Pearl Buck proceeds to weave into her fabric the latest pattern, the phase of China afflicted by the invasion of Japan. The novel is verily a story of two nations, of two eastern nations, the sharp points of distinction between whom the foreigners little suspect.

The son of a rich Chinese banker is shipped off to Japan by his anxious father, to avoid his execution as a revolutionary. The Chinese young man lives in intimacy with a Japanese family and the different members of that family serve to illustrate sufficiently all the characteristic ideals of the Japanese nation. Patriotism is the highest virtue of the Japanese life, and if a man cannot enrol himself in the army to fight for the country, it is best for him to commit suicide. The nation is strong for being nurtured in a hard school, and this is nowhere so well realised as in the way in which the people face an earthquake, without a moan and without a complaint and start re-building when the earthquake has passed off. The Japanese army abroad commits heart-rending atrocities, of which the people at home are kept in ignorance by rigid censorship.

There are, however, more interesting things than patriotism, of Japanese social and domestic life. Much as she may pride herself on her modernity, the Japanese woman is essentially old world in outlook and thinks it her highest duty in life to be a good wife. To fit herself for this position, it is best for her to be instructed by a Geisha girl, so that she may know to please her husband in an important purpose she has to fulfil. A Japanese woman thinks nothing of bathing naked

in a public pool; it is only the lustful gazing that makes the sin. The Japanese woman accepts motherhood with the same courage and cheerfulness that may be associated with the Chinese type. The author has developed strikingly the conflict which arises in the Japanese wife of the Chinese husband, between the loyalty she owes to her own country and the devotion to her husband. There is no doubt about the final result, wifely duty is greater than patriotism. The last section of the novel shows us the Chinese young man returning to his own country and playing his part in the struggle against Japan. Along with a comrade of his boyhood in the revolutionary movement, he receives the commands of General Chiang-Kaishek, who gets into personal touch with his lieutenants, and Madame Chiang is also shown as co-operating ably for the prosecution of the war. Some characteristic details of the way are also depicted.

The subjective novels need but brief comment. "The Fighting Angel" is the complement to "The Exile" and develops the heroism such as may be conceded, of the husband who differs from wife both in temperament and in outlook. His evangelistic zeal is quixotic and eschews the human element. The world may be saved from this misdirection of human energy. "The Proud Heart" is of an American woman, who has the lifelong conflict between the woman's life and the devotion to an art for which she possesses obvious gifts. The book must derive its interest chiefly as revealing the author's own personality.

The distinctive work of Pearl Buck is contained in "The Good Earth" and in "The Mother". These stories have the further value of illustrating the possibilities of writing Eastern stories in English. Not long ago appeared a story of Turkish life by Madame Halide Edib written in excellent English. Both Pearl Buck and Halide Edib have known the wifely martyr (or even drudge) to be the best the East has so far done. Their art is a monument to this discovery.

HAILE SELASSIE: A MAN OF DESTINY

By Mr. A. EVERARD BARTHOLOMEUSZ

— 0 —

ETHIOPIA made a great advance by the introduction of European views and methods under Emperor Menelik II, one of the most remarkable figures of the modern Orient. He had to fight the Italians, who did not finally succeed in deceiving him by the falsified translation of the ludicrous Treaty, and he defeated them decisively at Adowa in 1896. He created a circle of European-minded friends amongst the Chiefs. Amongst them was the outstanding figure of Ras Makonnen, the father of Emperor Haile Selassie I. The sons of these men having been trained and educated in the French language and on French lines, and many of them having travelled in Europe and Asia, were the convinced collaborators of Haile Selassie I, and they are the same *Rases* (Governors) and Generals whose names we have read in the newspapers. Into such surroundings was born at Harrar on July 23, 1891, Haile Selassie the eleventh son of Ras Makonnen the trusted friend of Emperor Menelik II. The boy was first educated by a priest and later sent to a school where he displayed unusual ability, a love for work and a taste for science. When still a youth, he was appointed Governor of Sidame Province with the rank of General, where his intelligence showed that he was much above the average for one of his age. His marked ability and great capacity for administration later obtained for him his father's Governorship of the Province of Harrar. The dethronement of Menelik's grandson called him to play a more prominent part. In September 1916, the young Ras Makonnen was named Prince Regent and Heir to the Throne, being so crowned with the Empress Zauditu on February 11th of the following year. In October 1922, he received the Crown of *Negus* (King).

From the time of his appointment as Regent, he resolutely undertook to raise his country to the highest stage of civilisation and to secure her admission to the Comity of Nations. The achievement of which he was most proud, was the

law for the abolition of Rural Serfdom (the so-called slavery) which was passed in 1924—the legislative triumph of a great effort carried through against feudal opposition and religious bigotry. Others before him had taken measures to suppress the traffic in slaves, but they had not attacked the evil at its root. Under his enlightened administration, the country began to assume the appearance of a civilised State. With great patience and persistence, he set about to mould a modern empire. A wise man, he decided not to force the pace. As he was hindered by lack of supreme powers, his solution had been to spend time until he had got that supreme power in preparation and planning. He had to keep the European Powers quiet and he accomplished a master-stroke by securing membership of his country into the League of Nations on September 28, 1923.

His journey abroad in 1924 was itself an innovation, no Ethiopian Ruler having left the country since the ancient journey of the Queen of Sheba to visit Solomon. In Rome, he was received with full honours as Head of an Independent State. By the creation of Legations in the capitals of Europe, he continued to make his country better known to the world. He always pursued in internal as well as in foreign affairs a policy of understanding, of peace and progress. In 1928, he concluded the Italo-Abyssinian Treaty for establishing constant peace and perpetual friendship with Italy and which was subsequently violated by the latter. Assuming the name of Haile Selassie I, he became *Negus Negasti* (King of Kings) in that year. On the death of the Empress Zauditu on April 2, 1930, he was proclaimed Emperor, being so crowned with his wife Etegi Manen seven months later with great pomp and ceremony. The Duke of Gloucester represented Great Britain at the Coronation and all the Great Powers sent their Envoys. In 1931, he promulgated a new Constitution establishing a Parliamentary Government and thereby raised the status of Abyssinia and earned respect and honour among the nations.

After his accession to the Throne, great strides were made in developing the country, building good roads, hospitals and schools and sending promising pupils to Europe to be educated at his own expense. The Schools in Addis Ababa, the capital, were excellent, as had been recognised by many European visitors. The proportion of the budget spent on education was extraordinarily high. Even in the outlying districts under primitive tribal conditions, the country school system was so effective that the British Sudan authorities sent representatives to study them as being advanced when compared with their own methods. The Negus performed a great work in establishing and organising Hospitals, Sanatoriums and Clinics and also for the hospitals welcome and magnificent aid rendered to beneficent missionary enterprises in the country. A great reformer in spite of innumerable difficulties, he achieved great success and, in 1938, he signed the Anti-Slavery Convention of Geneva. From the time when he preached his crusade against slavery, his people were willing enough to obey and respect his wishes, and slaves were liberated *en masse*.

During the Italo-Abyssinian conflict, he shared every possible risk and hardship with his soldiers. The Emperor left his Abyssinia not as a fugitive, but in the service of his country. He went to Europe not for safety but as a powerful pleader, as a member of what is, what should have been, what ought to have been an association of Powers each and all bound to put into practice those canons of justice and fair-dealing which the world now demands in all civilised nations and amongst individuals. He marched with his Army, suffered the effects of poison-gas, lay with his soldiers in the trenches, firing his machine-gun whilst the enemy planes circled overhead dropping bombs.

Acclaimed as a Hero and a Reformer, he has deserved well of his people and of the world. His enduring fidelity to the Covenant of the League of Nations has evoked respect and gratitude.

Haile Selassie has proved his mettle to all honest persons, he has no need to demonstrate either his courage, determination or capacity. He entered on the greatest task man ever undertook to safeguard the independence of the last remaining African State against the rapacity of Europe—a stupendous task. To serve the rule of law throughout the world and establish world peace upon an unassailable foundation is a task yet more stupendous. This has been the task of Haile Selassie—a Man of Destiny, in very truth.

Not from faintness of heart or fear of danger and difficulty, but from belief in the Peace ideal, he risked the ancient independence of his country on the honour and courage of European Statesmen of half a hundred Member-States. "Until the independence of my country is restored, I am a mourner, and if death comes to me in this struggle, I shall gladly accept it, I have no fear of death," he is once reported to have uttered. It was at the express wish of the Emperor to be in the vicinity of his country, that the British Government placed a house at Khartoum at his disposal.

It has now been revealed that the Emperor re-entered his country on the 15th January last where he was greeted by his two sons, the Crown Prince and the Duke of Harrar, after which he himself hoisted the Ethiopian Royal Standard. The Abyssinian revolt that had been smouldering in certain parts of the country ever since the Fascist conquest is bursting into flames owing to a clever plot hatched by the secret activities of the British Military Mission behind the Italian lines. Encouraged by the proclamation to lead his army in person, patriotic warriors are rallying to the Emperor's standard from all parts of the country. The unified revolt is gathering force and it is now only a matter of a few weeks before the Emperor will once again hold sway over his Kingdom thanks to Great Britain's promise to crush acts of wanton aggression and cruel repression and to restore nations that have become victims of that aggression.

DHURPAD AND KHAYAL

BY MR. SUSHIL CHANDRA MATHUR, B.A.

(Sangid Visharad)

THE music of Northern India, popularly known as Hindustani music, is divided into different styles which, though essentially the same in melodic combination of notes, have so much divergence in them that distinct schools have sprung up on their basis. Out of these styles, the Dhurpad and the Khayal are by far the most important. Indeed, these two styles together comprise what is known as 'Classical' in Hindustani music, the rest falling into the category of light music.

The origin of the Dhurpad school dates back to the 15th century A.D. But the groundwork was laid with the advent of the Muslim rule in India. The impact of Persian music on the purely Hindu music considerably changed its character in the northern part of the country. The martial style of the Persian music was akin to the Prabandha, which was in vogue since the days of Bharat, the celebrated author of the 'Natyashastra'. Therefore, there was little difficulty in the formation of a new style which welded together the good features of both the types of music.

India saw great religious movements in the 14th and 15th centuries. The cult of Bhakti, Vedanta, and Sufism gave great fillip to the vocal literature of India. Chaitanya, Nanak, Kabir, and Tulsidas flourished in this period. That versatile genius and a great Sufi, Amir Khusru, also belonged to this age. These men combined the qualities of the poet, the philosopher and the musician in one. As the members of these different sects were drawn from all castes, a "tune suited to all people was needed and the result was the Dhurpad".

In this way, the Dhurpad remained for some time only a thing to be sung in temples or religious congregations. Its subject-matter was, as a rule, devotional. But soon it saw another light and received royal patronage. The four walls of the sacred temples, where it was born, were less congenial to it than the stately hall of the Durbars. The saints like Swami

Hari Das were thrown into the background in comparison to the professional Tan Sen. "Thus the child of humble parents, brought up and fondled by the rich, the Dhurpad in its blooming youth appeared graceful, majestic, noble and sublime, yet unostentatious."

It was Raja Man Singh Tunwar, of Gwalior, who first took special recognition of this style and himself headed the Dhurpad school of his time, which has come down to our day. He took pains to give scientific explanation of the different techniques which had grown round it. His efforts are embodied in a work called *Man-Kutuhul* of which he himself is the author. It appears that he had called notable contemporary artistes and had clarified different matters regarding the Dhurpad with their help.

If Man Singh started the school, it was Islam Shah Suri and Bazbahadur (famous as "singer without a rival") who not only contributed to the beauty of the style by their own genius, but gave every encouragement to the musicians till Akbar became the patron of the Art. Tan Sen himself, whose name is one to conjure with, was a past master of the Dhurpad style. Indeed, Dhurpad was the style which stood unrivalled for about two centuries after Akbar the Great, when the birth of the Khayal style gave a great set-back to its popularity.

Dhurpad is a Sanskrit word, meaning a poem of four stanzas. But technically it means a style of music, which has generally four parts, viz., Asthai, Antra, Sanchari and Abhog. Though the musicians in the early stage of the Dhurpad scrupulously observed the rule of the four parts, their successors are not the least punctilious on this point, and many compositions are found which have only two parts, viz., Asthai and Antra. But it must not be imagined that these four parts are only a repetition of one part after another in the same manner as is often found in the folk songs. Asthai is usually sung below the

octave note, while Antra, as a rule, starts from the fourth or the fifth note of the middle octave, but its scope is above the octave note. Sanchari is like Asthai; but while singing, the musician has to treat it differently. He uses gamaks (prefixed grace notes) and tremors in this part of the song. Abhog is like Antra and is sung in a higher octave than Asthai.

Dhurpad has its own tale, quite independent of its rival the Khayal. It is sung in Chautal, Sulfak, Gajhampa, Tivra, Brahma, Rudra, etc. These Tals are very grand and sublime and are played on the Pakhawaj, the invariable accompaniment of the Dhurpad.

Dhurpad is taken in slow tempo and, in its simple form, it is shorn of any studied ornamental flourishes. Its beauty lies in its simplicity—simplicity not of an uncultured rustic, but of a man of wisdom and taste. Proficient interpreters of the Dhurpad possess voices of extreme delicacy and compass. For singing Dhurpad, special voice culture is required and considerable breath control is needed in order to execute every part of the song with grace. The musician has to pass from one note to another with great dexterity before an unbroken text can be presented to the audience. Indeed, "manly negligence seem to pervade the whole and the few turns that are allowed are always short and peculiar".

The Dhurpad style in India is becoming a rare acquisition. The popularity of the Khayal style, and the complex nature of the Dhurpad, have combined in giving the latter a severe blow. Dhurpad requires vast preparation, its rules are difficult to follow and its rendering requires mathematical precision.

Khayal is a Persian word, meaning imagination or thought. Indeed in the Khayal style, the singer has to expound his text or theme quite extempore and has to employ that faculty, which in poetry is called 'imagery'. He has a vast scope in which to render his musical ideas subject to certain rules. Words play but a minor part in the Khayal. The attention of the singer is concentrated on the development of the raga and all

things are made subservient to it. It has no austere simplicity of the Dhurpad; on the other hand, soft and subtle touches make it a thing of rapturous beauty. Again, unlike Dhurpad, the Khayal has simple Tals, which make it more easy for the singer to indulge in the raga development.

The origin of the Khayal is gradual, even obscure. The name of Hazrat Amir Khusru is usually associated with the origin of Khayal style. He is said to have invented the Qwali mode of singing from which, later, the Khayal style evolved. But the credit of making Khayal a perfect style goes to the genius of Niamat Khan and his brother Nobat Khan, better known in the musical world as Sadarang and Adarang. These two great musicians belonged to the Tan Sen family and were in the court of Mohamed Shah Rangila. Sadarang is very famous for his musical compositions and even today hundreds of them are extant. Paradoxical as it may appear, Sadarang gave no training in Khayal to any member of his family, nor he ever took pride in the fact that he was author of thousands of Khayal compositions. Being a descendant of Tan Sen, he could not stand the idea that any style of music could ever be superior to, or nobler than, the Dhurpad. He jealously guarded the cultural interests of his family in this matter and carefully kept his sons from the influence of the Khayal. There are stories current among musicians as to why Sadarang tried his genius in the field which was not his own. One such story, which is common and credible, tells us that the Emperor ordered him to train the eunuchs of his harem in the art of Classic music. At first he felt humiliation in initiating the unworthy and was reluctant to teach his family art. But he soon thought out of a device and composed songs in the Khayal style, which he taught to his pupils. These pupils devoted themselves assiduously and later were chiefly instrumental in the popularisation of the Khayal. Little could have Sadarang imagined that the creation of his pastime would ever become a deadly rival to so well founded and deeply rooted a system of music as the Dhurpad.

In its early stages, the Khayal received no recognition at the hands of the Artists of the first rank, who were all followers of the Dhrupad School. For them it is merely a child's play and indulgence in it was considered beneath their dignity. It had no access to the courts of the princes and it was pooh-poohed in the society of the cultured. Though the Khayal was almost despised by the exponents of the Dhrupad, it must not be imagined that it was a movement quite at an arm's length from the Dhrupad, or that the Dhrupad singers had no hand in its formation. It was really an undercurrent that burst out in the shape of the Khayal style. The glittering pageantry and mannerism of the Khayal, in contrast to the divine simplicity of the Dhrupad, caught the imagination of the people. Indeed, the musicians of the Nineteenth Century took to it with the zeal of a revolutionary.

Among those who helped the Khayal to come into its own were the three brothers: Haddu Khan, Hassu Khan and Nathu Khan of Gwalior. They were not only not content with the excellence they possessed in the Khayal style, but they popularised it in the whole of Northern India. It is said of them that they made a tour of the country with a view to impress upon the people the hitherto unknown beauties and freshness of the Khayal. They demonstrated to the people at large that the Khayal style was the most natural and was incapable of being stereotyped, because the singer had full scope for improvisation according to his talents and training.

While the Khan brothers were pioneers in Gwalior, Manrang gave a new orientation to the Khayal style in Jaipur through his exquisite compositions. These compositions are superb in their originality of structure besides being beautifully interwoven with the rhythm of the song. Crowded notes at different places at once enhance the charm and make the music more emotional. In fact, through the descendants and pupils of these great musicians, the Khayal became very popular and a new wave spread in the field of music.

The Khayal is sung slow as well as fast. The most common *Tal* is the *Trital*. The Khayal has only two parts, namely, *Asthai* and *Antra*. After reciting the full text of the classical composition, the musician has to develop the *raga*. The music, in the first stage, is slow and graceful. With small combinations of notes and suitable periods, a vivid atmosphere is created. But soon the tempo increases and the musician begins to utter long series of notes.

The popularity and triumph of the Khayal lies in its independence and elasticity. With wide scope and freedom of expression, the musician has great chance of pouring out his heart to his audience. The Khayal appeals alike to the emotion and the intellect. For the Khayal singer, the notes of his *raga* are just what mortar and bricks are for the architect; he builds his musical ideas, carefully cementing one note with another till he has completed an edifice, whose graceful form can only be perceived through the mental eye.

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Chiropractic: A Drugless Art of Healing

BY MR. N. V. ESWAR

— 10 —

THE cry for a drugless cure of the manifold and nameless diseases to which humanity has fallen a victim, was raised at first feebly. But today it is a gainer both in momentum and volume. In apparent answer to this cry in the wilderness, a new art of healing in which drugs are wholly dispensed with was discovered by Dr. D. D. Palmer in America. It, as a science, has been in perpetual, though slow, motion since 1895. Yet the veil of hesitancy has not been torn off the face of the general public.

There are evidences today to prove that Chiropractic was understood and practised by the Greeks some two thousand and five hundred years back.

Hippocrates, whose oath of allegiance to humanity is taken even today by the medical man when he begins practice, understood thoroughly and applied the fundamental principles of Chiropractic, Osteopathy and other natural methods of healing. His invaluable advice to his contemporaries was: "Look well to the spine, for many diseases have their origin in dislocations of the vertebral column."

India which gave birth to Ayurveda (the Science of Life) shares with Greece the honour of having practised Chiropractic in the dim past. Even at this distance of time, when allopathic and other forms of treatment have penetrated into the remotest village, it is considered the supreme remedy for all diseases. And if any one suffering from any chronic disease for a considerable time, undergoes this treatment for fourteen days in a year consecutively for three years, he will be quite free from any disease.

Possessing no scientific instruments but human intelligence and fingers to locate where the free passage of the vital Nerve Force has been blocked, the Indian system advocates the whole body being given a massage with two separate *tailas* (oils prepared from herbs) for the head and body. The spinal column being the centre of the seven important nerves in the body receives most of their attention. February is

considered the best month for undergoing this treatment.

The patient is made to lie flat on a rectangular wooden frame 6' x 8' with edges rising up to 1½" on all sides. The whole frame is so constructed as to slope towards one end. At this end, in the centre, is carved out a bowl-like projection intended to collect all the refuse by way of sweat and dirtied oil from the patient's body. The entire framework stands 8" high from the floor level by means of four dwarfish clumsy projections below.

For the fourteen days of treatment and another fourteen days after it, the patient has to subsist on rationed food. During these twenty-eight days, he is attended to in the same manner as a child is. For all the nerves in his body have been administered, so loosening an effect that they are almost incapable of steadying themselves.

The above is the Indian counterpart of Chiropractic. Even today when modern ways of life have made considerable inroads into the traditional life of an Indian, it is resorted to as the final art of healing that will give a further lease of life.

In the advice of Hippocrates to the physicians of his day is contained the quintessence of Chiropractic as it is understood today. The sole and infallible guide of Chiropractic is the Spinal Column.

Chiropractic is based on the theory that "the cause of disease is due to the subluxation of vertebrae which produce pressure upon the nerve trunks and thus interfere with the normal transmission of vital nerve force".—*The Chiropractor*.

Working on the above basis, the Chiropractic objective, therefore, is to locate the point in the spine where abnormal nerve pressure is being exerted by a vertebral subluxation and to restore the subluxated vertebra to normality through proper adjustment by hand, which will release the pressure on the nerve involved and thereby remove the cause of disease.

The above theory is too simple and clear as daylight to require any elucidation. There is no intricate and un-understandable reasoning behind its back. The obvious truth is, that the necessary nerve force for the body to function properly is being supplied to the various organs of the body through the spinal column. It, therefore, follows that, if any disease is felt in the locality of a particular organ, it signifies the non-receipt of the vital nerve force by this organ. The next step is to find out the point where the supply has been interfered with. And if normal supply of the nerve force is restored, there is no reason why the disease should not disappear altogether.

The modern Chiropractor uses two scientific aids to locate the cause of nervous disorders. Through a nerve-recording instrument known as the Neurocalometer, the Chiropractor locates the points of nerve pressure. X-ray Spinographs are then brought to actually show the misplacement of vertebrae causing the pressure on nerves.

Seeing on paper the actual misplacement of the vertebrae by our very naked eyes, we can no longer dispute the efficacy of Chiropractic in ministering natural drugless cure.

Although miraculous cures have been effected on cases pronounced as incurable by expert medical men, Chiropractic is still considered an untried Science, if not a fantastic claim. It is but natural that the change-over from what one is accustomed to, to a new science will always be slow and hesitant. But Chiropractic, by the very simple and radical cure it promises, is sure to sweep away these obstacles before long. It, however, needs intrepid workers who see Chiropractic more in the light of a mission in life than as a profession.

Davenport (Iowa,) turns overnight into the Mecca of the Chiropractors all the world over in the month of August, during which time they attend the Lyceum course of the Palmer School of Chiropractic, the place where modern Chiropractic saw the light of day. This course is organised in order to acquaint every member of the profession with the

latest developments in the art. The attendance is voluntary and entails heavy material sacrifices, which are gladly borne for the sake of Chiropractic.

In August 1938, a scheme for building a Chiropractic hospital was drawn up, the cost of which was estimated at \$50,000. After two years have elapsed, only some \$45,000 have been collected. This amply demonstrates the public apathy towards the new science. The hospital thus remains in the embryonic stage of a half-realised dream. The consolation is that more and more members are being attracted by this new science, and those who have already contributed are persuaded to sacrifice more. Perhaps the Chiropractic hospital will become a reality in the near future. If such an hospital comes into being, Chiropractic will command a wide attention than it does today.

India can boast of only three Chiropractors. They have between themselves done much good work. The Chiropractor, who first came from America, attended on Mahatma Gandhi, who is also a champion of the drugless art of healing. Chiropractic knowledge is being spread over continually expanding areas and some of the ruling Indian Princes are reported to be taking a very keen interest in Chiropractic.

Chiropractic will gain the support of India; for her temperament is best fitted for adopting this new science. Furthermore, it is already a known science here. Hostility and hesitancy are, therefore, completely out of place. Religious susceptibilities, and the very mental make up of Indians, have ever persuaded them to discover a new drugless art of healing. And when modern science takes up the cudgel in favour of the ancient system of drugless treatment, the confidence of Indians in Chiropractic will naturally increase doublefold.

The existence of such a system as Chiropractic is known only to a few in India. If it is given a wider publicity, it will gain in countless supporters and ardent followers in India.

SOCIAL REFORM IN INDORE

By MR. N. SWAMI, B.A. (HONS.)

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DUE largely to the progressive outlook of the Rulers, and the peculiar facilities offered by the monarchical form of Government, much headway has been made by the Indian States, or at least the more progressive of them in regard to social reform. In certain aspects of social reform, they can well claim to be far ahead of the rest of India.

The first piece of Social legislation in Indore, the Indore Civil Marriage Act, was passed as early as 1916 and was aimed at giving unfettered liberty to individuals untrammelled by custom in regard to marriage. The measure, according to the Huzur Order sanctioning it, "secures liberty of action to those who wish to extend their social horizon beyond the limited circle of their castes and communities. It is believed that the measure will promote general welfare and tend to bring about a better understanding between the different communities in India". The benefits of the measure have been availed of by advanced sections of the community.

That marriage is an institution which admits of as much rationalism as any other, and is designed for human happiness and not for human bondage, is recognised by the Indore Divorce Act, which provides for the divorce of marriages under the Civil Marriage Act on grounds of idiocy, adultery, lunacy, etc. on the part of either of the contracting parties. Children born of such marriages are, however, to be considered legitimate though the marriage itself may be annulled.

It has been universally recognised that, perhaps, no other custom makes for such a thorough physical and moral atrophy of the nation as the institution of child marriage which has, unfortunately, become a rooted evil of Indian society. While the rest of India still discussed the evils of this system, and the most appropriate measures to combat them, the Rulers of Indore recognised the necessity of putting them down in a ruthless fashion by State effort. The result was the Indore Child Marriage Act of 1918, which prohibited the marriage of boys aged less than 18 and girls less than 14.

In special cases, provision was made for special permissions being given to marriages of boys aged 16 and girls aged 11. This Act was overhauled and re-introduced as the Indore Marriage Registration and Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1988. A very advanced and unique piece of legislation, this Act provides for compulsory registration of all marriages taking place in the State—a measure designed to the easy detection of child marriages. The Municipalities, the Sarpanch in the case of villages with Panchayats, the Senior school master, and in his absence, the Patwari in other cases are the registering authorities who are empowered to initiate prosecutions in case of child marriages. The marriageable age of boys and girls is kept at the old level, but provision is made for special permissions in cases where the boy may be not less than 15 and the girl 12. Marriages below this age limit are prohibited. Provision is made for prompt action to prohibit child marriages where information of any such marriage is received by the Magistrate and attempt to defeat the purposes of the Act by conducting them outside the State limits is also made punishable. The penalty for conducting child marriage without permission has been raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 500. Within the short period the Act has been in force, it has proved to be quite a practical and useful piece of legislation. Old customs die hard and in spite of the stern measures taken under the Act (the number of prosecutions in 1988 amounted to 1,000), it is too early to expect that child marriage will be stamped out within the near future.

To the multitudes of Hindu widows, who are the victims of premature widowhood, the Indore Hindu Widow-Re-marriage Act of 1928 should offer welcome relief as it gives them full liberty to re-marry according to the dictates of their conscience and removes the bar of illegitimacy in the case of children born of such marriages. The only restriction in this case is that the girl should have completed her 16th year.

Another measure of a progressive character existing in Indore is the Prohibition of Marriages between Old men and Minor girls Act of 1927, which makes it penal for a man above 45 to marry a girl below 18. The practical enforcement of the Act, whose advantages are obvious, is secured by a Magistrate issuing a notice to the parties, forbidding such marriage as soon as he receives intimation of any such intended marriage. Adequate penalties are provided for in the case of a contravention of the Act.

With a view to limit, and as far as possible bring within reasonable limits extravagance in connection with marriage and funerals among Hindus, two rather novel laws are in force in Indore, the Indore Marriage Expenses Controlling Act and the Nukta Act. According to these enactments, no person shall feed more than 101 persons in the case of a marriage or nukta ordinarily and in extraordinary cases with special permission of a District Judge in the case of Nukta parties and a First Class Magistrate in the case of a marriage party, not more than 400 in the first and 500 in the case of the second. These measures are not a dead letter, but the practical difficulties in their enforcement have limited the number of prosecutions every year, the number for 1938 being 28. They, however, serve as deterrent to unchecked extravagance.

No article regarding social reform in Indore would be complete without a mention of the most important reform introduced of late, namely, the removal of untouchability. His Highness' famous Proclamation of 1938 removing untouchability in the State has rightly been considered to be a charter of liberty to a class of people kept under social suppression for ages.

The Indore Proclamation is in advance of similar Proclamations elsewhere in so far as the former allows Harijans to build houses in localities hitherto considered to be the preserves of higher communities. During the three years that the Proclamation has been in force, a general spirit of awakening has been in evidence among the Harijans. To give practical effect to the Proclamation, a Central Harijan Uplift

Committee was formed in Indore with branches all over the State. Pracharaks have been appointed for intensive propaganda work, to educate the Harijans in their rights and to teach them how to live a hygienic life. School education had been free to Harijans even from 1935; this concession was extended to College education also from 1940. About 3,500 Harijan boys and 100 Harijan girls were receiving education last year in the State High Schools, Middle Schools and special adult schools started in various parts of the State.

The epoch-making Proclamation of 1938 was followed up in 1939 by a declaration of His Highness' practical sympathy for this community. This year His Highness announced a recurring grant of Rs. 1 lakh for housing the poor classes, and the first instalment of his donation was given for the construction of sanitary tenements for the city Harijan sweepers—perhaps the poorest of His Highness' subjects. Situated in healthy open surroundings and provided with excellent roads, drains, lighting and water supply, the new Harijan colony, which has already neared completion, is expected to provide accommodation to 91 Harijan families and to permanently solve a serious problem that was facing the Municipality for years together. This scheme will be followed up by further housing schemes for housing the rest of the sweepers.

There are various other pieces of social legislation designed to provide for the moral and social well-being of the community. Mention may be made of the Prevention of Gambling Act, the Control of Brothels Act and the Children Act. The first two are enforced with vigour, while the last Act has not been enforced. Reformatory schools for dealing with juvenile offenders are being proposed to be started and when such schools are opened, the Children Act would be properly enforced.

If social reform can be considered to be one of the criteria of a progressive Government, Indore should with justice claim to have a proud position among such Governments.

THE NEW TURKEY

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Following Italy's attack on Greece and the Nazi thrust into Rumania and Bulgaria, Turkey's position has become not only more difficult but more onerous. For now as in the centuries past, she is the guardian of the Straits and she stands in the way of the Dictators' march on the oil-fields of Irak and Iran. A writer in the *War Illustrated* shows how a strong and rejuvenated Turkey holds the key position in the Balkans, stemming the tide of the Nazi menace.—[ED. I.R.]

IN our fathers' days, Turkey was the "sick man of Europe". She had been dying for centuries and during the long reign of Abdul Hamid II (1876-1909), it seemed that nothing could save her from dissolution. Province after province was lost, and after the old Sultan died the process was quickened. "In 1911, Italy seized Tripoli, and in the Balkan War of 1912, Turkey was so soundly beaten by the Serbs, Greeks, and Bulgars that she was almost driven out of Europe. True, in the next year when the victors fell out, she recovered Adrianople with Bulgaria's aid, but the issue of the Great War was even more disastrous. Despite her defeat by the British and French in the Dardanelles, by 1918 Turkey was completely crushed, and the conquerors deprived her of Syria, Palestine, and Arabia. Constantinople itself was occupied and nothing was left to the Turks save a tiny corner in Europe and Asia Minor, and even that was threatened with Italian and Greek domination.

In 1918, Turkey was down and out; the sick man seemed to be really dead. Yet before long there were many signs of a national awakening due almost entirely to that extraordinary man, one of the real makers of the modern world, Mustapha Kemal Pasha—Ataturk, as later he came to be styled. In 1922, Kemal chased the Greek invaders into the sea and bade successful defiance to the Allies in Constantinople. The last of the Sultans, Mohammed VI. took refuge in the British cruiser *Malaya* and escaped to Malta. Turkey was proclaimed a republic with Kemal as its first President, while Ismet Pasha—now President Inonu—formed a cabinet.

Thus began a sweeping reformation. In the course of a few years, Islam was disestablished as the State religion, and the new law code removed religion from public affairs altogether and made it a

matter of purely private choice; the fez was abolished, also the Arabic alphabet in favour of the Latin we use ourselves; polygamy was frowned upon, women were unveiled and given the vote; and in every sphere, legal and social, economic and political, the sexes were put on terms of equality.

So sweeping were the reforms, so rapid the pace with which they were effected, that it is not surprising that there were some of the older generations who protested, but the protests were soon silenced; some of the discontented were given the opportunity to change their opinions in gaol, while the more hardened and hopeless cases were strung up by the hangman. Kemal knew his own mind and was in a hurry.

Yet in spite of all, the nationalist revolution in Turkey shows every sign of being permanent. For the first time in history, Turkey is now a homogeneous country; perhaps it was from Kemal that Hitler learnt to "bring home" his Germans; for years ago Turkey arranged for an exchange of populations with Greece, so that now there is hardly a Turk left in Greece and hardly a Greek left in Turkey.

Because of its compactness of territory, its uniformity of racial composition, present-day Turkey is far stronger than the Turkey of the Sultans. As we have seen, it is the creation of two soldiers: Kemal and his lieutenant, Inonu (who succeeded as President on Kemal's death in 1938), yet since the Greeks were driven out in 1922, Turkey has pursued a policy of "peace, retrenchment, and reform". Though Communism has been strictly suppressed in Turkey, the relations between Soviet Russia and Turkey have been of the best since 1920; and since 1930, another old enemy, Greece, has been accepted as a friend. Turkey joined Greece, Yugoslavia,

and Rumania in the Balkan *Entente* concluded in 1884, and in 1887, she was a partner with Iran, Irak, and Afghanistan in the Saadabad Pact of non-aggression.

Much more important, however, is her adhesion to the Anglo-Franco-Turkish Pact signed at Ankara on October 19, 1939; under this treaty, Turkey promised to come to the aid of Britain and France if a European power commits an act of aggression leading to war in the Mediterranean area in which France and the United Kingdom are involved, and also to help France and the United Kingdom if, in fulfilling their guarantees to Greece and Rumania, they are involved in hostilities. It should be added that a protocol to the Ankara Treaty states that the obligations undertaken by Turkey cannot compel her to take action having as its effect or involving as its consequence, entry into armed conflict with the U. S. S. R.

But though she has followed the paths of peace and asks nothing more than to be left alone, Turkey knows that her

present position was secured by the sword and may have to be maintained by the sword. Hence no pains or money have been spared to build up the Turkish Army into a most formidable fighting force. Its strength in peace time is 20,000 officers and 175,000 men; military service is compulsory from the age of 20, and the annual contingent of recruits called to the colours is about 90,000. On a war footing an army of well over 2,000,000 men could take the field.

The Turkish Navy has been in the throes of reorganization for some time past. The principal vessel is the battle-cruiser *Yavuz*, which won fame in last war under the German flag as the *Goeben*; there are two cruisers and a handful of destroyers and submarines and a number of smaller vessels.

The Turkish Air Force has been recently reorganized and it is now equipped with fairly modern aircraft of British, American, Polish, and German makes, but its first-line strength is 550 aeroplanes.

"GANDHI MAHARAJ"

BY RABINDRANATH TAGORE

We who follow Gandhi Maharaja's lead
have one thing in common among us;
We never fill our purses with spoils from the poor
nor bend our knees to the rich.

When they come bullying to us
with raised fist and menacing stick,
We smile to them, and say: "•"
Your reddening stare may startle babies out of sleep
but how frighten those who refuse to fear?

Our speeches are straight and simple,
no diplomatic turns to twist their meaning;
confounding penal code
they guide with perfect ease the victims
to the border of jail.

And when these crowd the path of the prison gate
their stains of insult are washed clean,
their age-long shackles drop to the dust,
and on their forehead are stamped
Gandhiji's blessings.

March 15, 1941.

—Visva-Bharati Quarterly.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

By "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

The Bombay Conference

It is too soon to assess the results of the Conference of non-party leaders which met at Bombay under the presidency of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru in the middle of last month. Judging by the tone of the speeches and the text of the resolution adopted at the Session, one must count it as a great success in the present circumstances of the country. The Conference was one more genuine and determined attempt on the part of some of the leaders to end the deadlock.

The President, indeed, by his frank and courageous utterance gave the lead in unmistakable terms: "I maintain and maintain very strongly that there has never been a Government of India more isolated from public opinion and from the main current of thought in the country than the present Government of India," said Sir Tej Bahadur, and the Conference set itself to bridge the gulf by demanding the immediate reconstruction of the Governor-General's Executive Council, which should consist wholly of non-official Indians drawn from important elements in the public life of the country, and which should be treated in regard to all inter-Imperial and international matters on the same footing as the Dominion Governments.

The resolution, which was moved by Sir N. N. Sircar, also suggested that simultaneously with the reconstruction of the Government, His Majesty's Government should make a declaration

that within a specified time-limit after the conclusion of the war, India will enjoy the same measure of freedom as will be enjoyed by Britain and the Dominions.

This is a clear enough declaration representing "the greatest common measure of agreement possible in the country", and the Government will be well advised to take immediate steps in that direction.

Whatever Government's reaction to the unanimous demands of the Conference may be, it would be a pity if the work of the Conference should be confined to the two day session. We, therefore, welcome the President's announcement that a Standing Committee is to be appointed to continue the work to a fruitful conclusion. It is now for the various parties in the country to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the Conference to unite and press for the demands contained in the resolution.

Sir Visvesvaraya's Plea for Planned Industries

In recent months, particularly after the outbreak of the war, Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the veteran statesman and engineer, has pleaded for a planned drive for furthering large scale industries in the country. The tale of his failure to enlist Government support for his scheme of automobile manufacture in India has been told in these pages. He deplores that even the opportunities created by the needs of the war are lost on India. It is true that Government are just awakening to the need for stimulating certain industries directly beneficial to the war, but that is not enough. Addressing the Manufacturers' Conference at Bombay, Sir Visvesvaraya pointed out:

We must impress on Government that they will not have discharged their duty to the people of this country by encouraging only war industries, which can be in production by the middle of 1942, but that an endeavour is expected in this emergency on their part to make the country self-contained in as many requirements, both for peace and war, as possible.

He declared that their policy is definitely wrong as a long-range policy of a Government interested in the welfare of the people. In face of the Government's attitude, Sir M. Visvesvaraya called upon industrialists to meet the situation "by co-operative effort to the best of our abilities and opportunities".

The Commander-in-Chief's Statement

The new Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has begun well. His Excellency's speech in the Council of State marks a new and welcome departure in the policy of the Defence Department in their attitude to public criticism of their doings. His desire to conciliate Indian opinion is evident from his amendment to Pandit Kunzru's resolution, urging recruitment to the army from all classes and areas. The Amendment reads:

This Council, while recognising that, to begin with, the Army could be most speedily expanded only on the existing basis of recruitment, recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council that the Army authorities should now review sources of man-power throughout the country and should exclude no class or area from consideration for recruitment in the formation of new units.

His Excellency thus accepted the substance of the Pandit's resolution and announced that he had already issued instructions that the old Madras Regiment should be revived, and undertook to take steps to ensure the permanent representation of other provinces, hitherto not mentioned in the Army list, in the same way.

No wonder, His Excellency's Amendment was carried unanimously. We welcome his further announcement that the same policy will be adopted in regard to Air Force. For, answering a question on the subject earlier in the day, His Excellency made it clear beyond doubt that communal considerations would not be allowed to enter into questions regarding selection or retention of candidates in the I. A. F. "For recruitment," he added in reply to a supplementary question, "a candidate must be Indian and he must be suitable. There is no other criterion as already indicated." This is as it should be.

The Late Sir Shah Sulaiman

We deeply regret to record the death of Sir Shah Mahomed Sulaiman, Judge of the Federal Court of India and an outstanding personality in the world of science. As Judge and later Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, the late Sir Shah Sulaiman made most valuable contributions, but as a mathematician and scientist, he made his name known all over the world. Since he became Judge of the Federal Court, he extended his relations with jurists in America and England. His death is deeply mourned by a large number of friends all over the country and his loss will be irreparable to the University of Aligarh, of which he was the Vice-Chancellor.

In him, the *Indian Review* has lost a valued contributor; for, Sir Shah was a willing and ready reviewer of the most abstruse books on Science and Mathematics which lay-journalists hesitate to handle.

Mr. Jinnah declines League Co-operation

Declining an invitation of Mr. Ogilvie, Defence Secretary, to nominate two members of the Muslim League Party to join a party of members of the Central Legislature to go on a tour of military installations and institutions in India, Mr. M. A. Jinnah has written to the Defence Secretary:

I regret to have to say that this is one more effort on the part of the Government indirectly to get the Muslim League to bear the responsibility and associate with the policy of the war effort, which is being made without our having a real and substantial authority in the Government at the Centre and in the Provinces. . . .

What is the use of the Muslim League members of the Central Legislature merely going on a brief tour of military installations and institutions when they have no voice or share in the expenditure of money or any control?

Mr. Naz's Tirade against the Hindus

Mr. Fazlul Huq, Prime Minister of Bengal, has seldom distinguished himself either for sanity or self-restraint; but in his recent statement on the Census in Bengal, he outdid himself in vulgarity and malevolence. This is how he chose to attack the entire Hindu community of Bengal:

Lawyers, scientists, professors, lecturers, landlords, merchants, Brahmins and non-Brahmins and all the medley of caste and sub-caste have combined to tell lies and make false statements in order to inflate their figures.

What better can I expect when I find men, who have spent their whole life in the teaching of the youth, making false statements without the slightest qualms of conscience and indulging in an orgy of chicanery, perjury and falsehood in order to deflate the Muslim position?

Fancy, the Chief Minister of a great Province, responsible for its government, indulging in this stuff. It is bad enough in a private individual who can be hauled up for libel for such talk, but in a Minister of State, it is positively dangerous.

Anti-Indian Policy in Ceylon

It is now quite evident that the two bills now before the State Council for control of immigration and registration of non-Ceylonese are purposely designed to implement the policy of the Ministers—that of making it so uncomfortable for Indians in Ceylon that they would be forced to return to India. The European planter who made this observation at a recent meeting of their Association was obviously disturbed by the prospect of a dearth of labour. But apart from its repercussions on the planting interests, the fact remains that Indians stand to lose alike in material and moral rights. The Ministers contend that in the absence of such a check Indians would swamp the island. It is passing strange to think that they are seriously disturbed by the

prospect of a mere 600,000 Indians in any way trying to "politically swamp" over six million Ceylonese. It is an absurd screen to cover an unfortunate tendency to anti-Indian feeling that is growing in the island. Every one who has the interest of the island at heart has condemned the bills as ill-advised and ill-timed, and H. E. the Governor of Ceylon very properly emphasises

the necessity for a calm, cool, careful and collected approach to and attitude towards political controversy. The months ahead are bound to be a testing time for all and on each one of us using his powers of restraint and his sense of perspective depends more than one may choose to think.

The New Sind Ministry

The repudiation of the Azad Pact was quickly followed by the repudiation of Mir Bundeh Ali, the Premier himself, by his own colleagues. The Ministry was forced to resign and Khan Bahadur Allah Bux was free to choose his own Cabinet. With him are the two Hindu Ministers, Mr. Vazirani and Rai Saheb Gokuldas, who resigned with him during the crisis. Pir Illahi Bux, who has stood by Allah Bux through thick and thin, is there in the Cabinet, as also Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, who, as an experienced administrator, must prove a tower of strength to the Ministry in maintaining law and order which is assigned to him. Sir Ghulam may be expected to act with tact and courage in an emergency. Thus the Allah Bux Cabinet promises to work smoothly and efficiently, and we look forward to a period of comparative peace and security, that is to say, if the leaguers behind Mir Bundeh Ali do not attempt again to place their personal or party interests above the interests of the Province. For, as the new Premier has declared:

By continuing our differences, we are putting off the day when India will attain Swaraj and the moment the Hindus and the Muslims patch up their differences, no power on earth will deny Indians their right to Swaraj.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

Mr. Churchill's Confidence

IN the course of his address to the Central Council of the National Union of Conservative Associations, the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, paid a tribute to the loyalty of the late Mr. Neville Chamberlain, who, when he realised that he did not command the unity essential to the task then facing Government, "with perfect self-abnegation, which will ever be an example to public men and which will long be associated with his name, stepped aside and resigned his office."

Mr. Churchill was consequently able to form an All-party Government and enable the country to get through the dark hours. The Premier expressed a note of robust confidence. He said:

I cannot pretend to you, my friends and supporters, that I took up my task with any other feeling than that of invincible confidence. That is the feeling which inspires me here to-day.

We have had the deliverance of Dunkirk, which gave us back the core and fibre of our regular army. Since then, we have had a series of notable victories.

First of all, the frustration of Hitler's invasion plan and the brilliant exploits of the R. A. F.:

Secondly, the frustration of his attempt to cow and terrorise the civil population of this country by ruthless air bombing; and

Thirdly, we have had the destruction of the Italian power and Empire in Africa by our army there which, although we were left unsupported by our French ally and although we were deprived of all strategic points necessary to maintain direct contact through the Mediterranean, nevertheless, has been able to remove almost all—and the rest soon—of the stain Italian tyranny has wrought upon African soil.

British Ambassadors Abroad

A white paper mentions that Viscount Halifax, British Ambassador in Washington, Sir Samuel Hoare, British Ambassador in Madrid, and Sir Stafford Cripps, British Ambassador in Moscow are filling their posts without salary. They receive only the expenses of representation.

President Roosevelt's broadcast to India

In a historic broadcast to the world, President Roosevelt has referred in unforgettable terms to the menace of dictatorship to liberty. He said that the American nation had been thoroughly aroused and was standing four square to the peril that threatened democracies everywhere. In tones of ringing eloquence, he declared:

The light of democracy must be kept burning. If democracy failed, freedom of speech, expression and worship, freedom from want and fear would become forbidden things.

Excellent. There is no doubt, great expectations have been raised in countries like India which are still praying for that light. What are his reactions to the Indian demand for freedom? The President has well said:

We believe that the rallying cry of the dictators and their boasting about the master race will prove to be pure stuff and nonsense. There has never been and never will be any race of people fit to serve as masters over their fellow-men. The world has no use for any nation which, because of its size and military might, asserts its right to goose-step to world power over other nations and other races. We believe that any nationality, no matter how small, has the inherent right to its own nationhood. Never in all our history have Americans faced a job so well worth while.

May we hope that the right of nations he pleads for is not to be confined to the whites only but to all nations, all the world over?

Cost of Jap Hostilities in China

The total cost of Japanese hostilities against China since the commencement of the war in July 1937 is approximately 17,500,000,000 yen (about Rs. 1,422 crores) according to official figures placed before the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives by the Finance Ministry of Extraordinary Military Expenditure. Of the grand total, 15,500,000,000 yen were raised by issuing Government Bonds.

Coup d'etat in Belgrade

A Dramatic turn has taken place in the European situation with the military *coup d'etat* in Belgrade on the 27th March, when King Peter suddenly assumed control of the country. He is within six months of his 18th birthday when he could normally assume Royal powers. The arrest of M. Tsvetkovitch, the Prime Minister, who signed the Axis Pact, was closely followed by the appointment of General Simovitch as head of the new Government, and the issue of a proclamation by the young King calling for unity and loyalty within Yugoslavia in the present crisis in the country's history.

The coup is regarded in London as a sensational turn of the diplomatic tide against the Axis. It is the first major political defeat sustained by Germany on the Continent and, as one diplomatist picturesquely described it, a "blow in the face for Hitler, which Mr. Matsuoka's presence in Berlin will not make it the less painful."

Japan and Indo-China

Reports of fresh Japanese demands on Indo-China are prominently displayed in the official central *Daily News* saying that Japan wants Indo-China to join the East Asia "Mutual Prosperity Bloc", the conclusion of a Japan-Indo-China trade treaty under which Japanese goods will be accorded reduced import duty and "Most Favoured Nation treatment". Japan to be allowed to station 2,000 troops and warships at Saigon's Bay forts in Camrah Bay to be leased to Japan for 15 years, no restrictions to be placed on the number of Japanese troops stationed in areas north of Haiphong, and Japan to be allowed to develop "waste land" in Indo-China.

Anglo-French Alliance

The British Government have formally agreed to provide credits for financing the French war effort. This is one of the two agreements just reached between the British Government and General de Gaulle. The second agreement deals with foreign exchange questions between the British Empire and the Free French Empire. It re-establishes pre-armistice parity between the pound and the *franc* at 176'625. Each colony can freely dispose of foreign exchange proceeds of exports and gold production under the control of the Council of Defence of the French Empire, which will be in a position, if necessary, to use the surplus of exchange resources of one colony to meet the deficit of another, or for the Free French forces as a whole.

Soviet-Turkish Agreement

The Soviet Government has informed the Turkish Government that should Turkey be the object of aggression and be led to go to war for the defence of the territory, Turkey may count on entire understanding and neutrality of the Soviet.

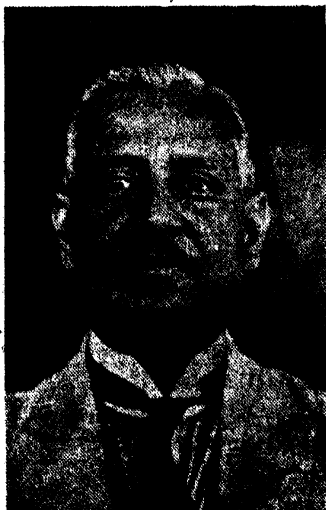
This was officially announced on March 24. The announcement adds that the Turkish Government has expressed its most sincere thanks to the Soviet Government for this declaration and informed it that the U. S. S. R. on its part may, should it find itself in a similar position, reckon on the entire understanding and neutrality of Turkey.

Bulgaria Joins the Axis

Bulgaria signed a protocol adhering to the Three Power Pact on March 1. The text of the protocol is identical with that under which Rumania, Hungary, and Slovakia, adhered to the Pact.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

March 1. Bulgaria joins the Axis.
March 2. German troops enter Bulgaria.
March 3. Congress withdraws from Bengal Assembly.
March 4. Turkish President receives Hitler's special envoy.
March 5. Britain breaks off with Bulgaria.
March 6. Sind Ministry resigns. Mr. Allah Bux summoned to form Ministry.
March 7. King Carol escapes to Portugal.
March 8. The Senate passes Lease and Lend Bill by 80 votes to 31.
March 9. Government's repressive policy is condemned in Assembly.
March 10. In the Council of State, H. E. the Commander-in-Chief pays tribute to Indian troops' action in Africa.
 —Maharashtra beat Madras by 6 wickets.
March 11. Sir Sikhendar suggests new constitutional scheme.
 —President, U. S., signs aid to Britain Bill.



Sir SHAH MAHOMED SULAIMAN

March 12. Sir Shah Mahomed Sulaiman is dead.
March 13. The Bombay Conference of non-party leaders meets under the presidentship of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru.

March 14. Bombay Conference demands Indianisation of the Viceroy's Council.
March 15. President Roosevelt reaffirms American unity and determination.
March 16. Hitler, speaking in Berlin, asks the country to make heavier sacrifices.
 —Mr. K. M. Munshi is released.
March 17. Viceroy opens meeting of the Princes' Chamber in Delhi.
 —British troops recapture Berbare, capital of British Somaliland.
March 18. Mr. Churchill discloses destruction of Nazi ships and U-Boats in the Atlantic.
March 19. Serious communal riot in Dacca.
 —British troops capture Jig Jiga in eastern Abyssinia.
March 20. Cabinet split in Yugoslavia.
 —Fierce air raid on Plymouth.
March 21. British troops occupy Hargeisa in British Somaliland.
March 22. The Assembly passes the Finance Bill, Muslim League and Nationalist Party voting against.
 —Soviet assurance to Turkey.
March 23. Matsuoka in Moscow reiterates Jap adherence to Axis Pact.
March 24. Britain's last warning to Yugoslavia not to sign Axis Pact.
 —Turkish assurance to Russia.
March 25. Sir Feroze Khan Noon arrives in New York.
 —Yugoslavia signs the Tripartite Pact.
March 26. Demonstrations in Yugoslavia protesting against Axis Pact.
March 27. Agreement signed in London leasing Atlantic bases to U. S. A.
 —Bloodless military coup in Yugoslavia.
March 28. Mr. Jinnah declines Defence Secretary's offer to League nominees to go on tour of military institutions.
March 29. Germany demands an explanation of the coup in Belgrade.
 —French batteries open fire on British Naval Forces.
March 30. Standing Committee of the Leaders' Conference meets in Delhi.
 —Mr. Jinnah reaffirms demand for Pakistan in his Cawnpore speech.
March 31. The Sind Governor denounces Pakistan.

The WORLD of BOOKS

THE STRUCTURAL BASIS OF INDIAN
• ECONOMY: A Survey in Interpretation.
By H. Venkatasubbiah. George Allen
and Unwin. 7sh. 6d.

There are certain attractive features about this book. The author wields a powerful pen. In a number of passages he attains a high standard of excellence. Particularly noteworthy is the Chapter on Agricultural Economy, where he gives us a brilliant analysis of the policy of the Government from time to time and the consequent reactions on our agricultural development.

There are, however, certain structural defects and the title of the book is somewhat misleading. The author deals only with "certain selected aspects of Indian Economic Development as seen in the light of Imperialist theory". The lights and shadows not directly coloured by economic imperialism are, therefore, to be found missing in the picture he has drawn. Even the selected aspects which the author discusses do not seem to converge to any central thesis, though we have a very good post-mortem examination of the working of economic imperialism. It is also difficult to subscribe to some of the author's conclusions. For instance, when he asserts that "it is highly unlikely that India will ever become an industrial power", he seems to have completely ignored our immense potentialities for the generation of hydro-electric power for industrial purposes. In spite of these defects, the book provides us a very useful background for a study of certain important aspects of our economy and is a welcome addition to the scanty literature on the subject.

MEN IN THE LIMELIGHT: Life Sketches.
By Khasa Subba Rau. K. Mahadevan,
Royapettah. Re. 1.

These sketches of South Indian celebrities attracted the notice of the more discerning public even as they appeared in a local weekly. Mr. Subba Rau, in giving them a more permanent form, has done well to respond to the wishes of not a few of his readers.

The dozen men of whom he treats with such evident sympathy and discernment in these pages, are well known figures in the public life of South India. It is a difficult thing to write about one's contemporaries with perfect detachment. You can neither praise nor blame them without being charged with flattery or malice. It is dangerous to pass judgment on them without yourself being ill-judged. Mr. Subba Rao has, by strength of his own integrity, managed to present a faithful picture of men as far different in temperament and aptitudes as S. Srinivasa Iyengar and C. Rajagopalachari, Dr. Reddy and Dr. Pattabhi, T. Prakasam and K. Srinivasan, S. Doraiswami Iyer and S. Satyamurti. On the whole, he has achieved a degree of "objective impartiality" on which he may well be congratulated.

But who cares for what he calls that "perfect objective impartiality"—happily unattainable—which may reduce an Essay pulsating with life into a cold Algebraic formula? Mr. Subba Rau has done well to let himself go in his Essays, and where his emotions play freely and without restraint, he is distinctly interesting.

A journalist writing of men of action is apt to look at things as they react on him at the moment, and Mr. Subba Rau has some difficulty in reconciling what seem like contradictions in a character like C. R. in different roles. But time smoothens all angularities, and in due perspective, who knows Mr. Subba Rau may yet revise his judgment of many things and men, including C. R.!

A KIPLING TREASURY: Stories and Poems.
By Rudyard Kipling. Macmillan & Co., Ltd.

Kipling's stories are so varied that each reader is apt to have his own favourites among them. Those with an Indian setting are decidedly his master-pieces and we can conceive of no collection without that exquisite interpretation of jungle life: "Toomai of the Elephants." Two famous tales of the Merchant Fleet and the Royal Navy are welcome additions to this collection. The wealth of Kipling's verse can hardly be measured by the few pieces at the end of the book, but lines like those that follow seem specially appropriate to the times through which we are passing:

No easy hope or lies
Shall bring us to our goal
But iron sacrifice
Of body, will and soul.
There is but one task for all
One life for each to give,
What stands if Freedom fall?
Who dies if England live?

1. KOVALAN AND KANNAKI. By A. S. P. Ayyar, M.A., I.C.S. Published by C. Coomaraswamy Naidu & Sons, 27, Chinnathambi Street, Madras. Re. 1.
2. THREE FAMOUS TALES. By A. S. P. Ayyar, M.A., I.C.S. Published by G. V. K. Swamy & Co., Kumbakonam. As. 10.

Mr. A. S. P. Ayyar writes in his usual prolific and vigorous style. Kovalan and Kannaki is the justly famous Tamil love story, taken from the Tamil Epic, Silappadhikaram. It marks the high watermark of Tamil life and ideals eighteen hundred years ago and, as told by the learned author, makes very fascinating reading. The other book gives the three well known stories of Harischandra, Nala and Damayanti and Bimbasara in easy and flowing language and will appeal to all young readers.

SRI AUROBINDO AND THE NEW AGE. By Anilbaran Roy. Publishers: John M. Watkins, 21, Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, London, W.C. (Available of G. A. Natesan & Co. Re. 1-4.)

Mr. Anilbaran Roy, the devout disciple of Sri Aurobindo, has already established his reputation as a lucid and clear interpreter of his master's message in several volumes, notably in his edition of "The Message of the Gita". The present volume is a collection of articles written to certain well known Periodicals in India. On different aspects of the teaching of Sri Aurobindo is the call to erect the basis of modern civilization on spiritual foundation. In the recently published three volumes on "Life Divine" by Sri Aurobindo, his message is set forth at great length. Man must develop into the true superman through the awakening of the spiritual in him. Aurobindo is one of those few great men who want to make Vedanta a living religion. The volume under notice is a brilliant introduction to the study of the philosophy of Aurobindo. Its special merit is the simplicity of style and the illuminating citations from the writings of Sri Aurobindo.

CHANGING INDIA. By Iqbalunnisa Hussain. Published by Bangalore Press. (Available of G. A. Natesan & Co. Rs. 2.)

The volume under review is a collection of addresses delivered by Mrs. Hussain, the enlightened Muslim lady of the Education Department of the Mysore University. The addresses record her impressions about the problems that affect women. Mrs. Hussain, unlike modern ladies, took to education comparatively late, after her eldest son had taken the degree. The book is interesting reading.

OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE. By D. Iswara Topa. Kitabistan, Allahabad. Rs. 8.

The author, Reader in History of Indian Culture, Osmania University, Hyderabad (Deccan), makes a valuable, though polemical, contribution to the study of the cultural factors in Indian life and civilisation. The first part of the book deals with the Dravidian culture and the Aryan invasion of India. The second part deals with the cultural ideas of Indo-Muslim kingship in India. He thinks that Akbar the Great is the creator of a New India or an India surcharged with germs of a common national culture in India. "If we study medieval India and her problem scientifically, we are sure to come to the conclusion that we—Hindus and Muslims—have contributed our full quota to the evolution of a common cultural heritage"—an exceedingly timely thought at the present day.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN ANCIENT INDIA. By Prof. Indra. Published by the Minerva Bookshop, Lahore. Rs. 8.

In this very interesting volume, the author has given us a vivid survey of women's position—social, religious and political and legal in ancient India. He maintains that women enjoyed in the Aryan society represented by Vedic literature a much better position than in the later ages of the *Dharmashastras*. He seeks successfully to corroborate his statements with profuse citations from ancient Indian scriptures.

In a brief and spirited introduction to the book, Srimati Vijayalakshmi Pandit points out that women emerged from the domestic to the political stage so early as the twelfth century.

To the leaders of the feminist movements in India, Prof. Indra's book is a valuable guide, in that it faithfully records the exact position of women in ancient India.

BOOKS RECEIVED

THE FALL OF THE IDOLS. By W. R. Inge, formerly Dean of St. Paul's. Putnam, London.

AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN THE U. S. S. R. By Violet Lansbury. Putnam, London.

THE NEW YEAR BOOK, 1941. Edited by T. Guha Thakurta, M.A., S.C. Sarkar and Sons, Ltd., College Square, Calcutta.

SERAN VANJI. By Dr. S. Krishnaswami Iyengar. Cochin Government Press, Ernakulam.

THE TRAVANCORE TRIBES AND CASTES. The Aborigines of Travancore, Vol. III. By L. A. Krishna Iyer, M.A. Government Press, Trivandrum.

THE WAR PREDICTION. By Gandhi Astrologer. V. K. Satagopachariar, Tiruttani. As. 12.

ALL ABOUT FRUITS. By Sukh Dyal, M.Sc. Industry Publishers Limited, Calcutta.

STUDIES IN INTERNATIONAL LAW. By R. K. Gupta, Kitab-Mahal, Allahabad.

REPORT ON THE MARKETING OF POTATOES IN INDIA AND BURMA. Manager of Publications, Delhi.

DOCK LABOURERS IN BOMBAY. By Rasiklal P. Cholia, M.A., LL.B. Longmans, Green & Co., Ltd., Bombay.

THE ANALYSIS OF KNOWLEDGE. By Ledger Wood. George, Allen and Unwin.

PUSHPA VATIKA. The Ramayana of Tulsi Das (in English verse). By Dwarka Prasad Srivastava. Dwarka Bhawan, Banda, U. P.

SWASTHIKA AND SWASTHI LIFE. By Venkatadri-natha Serna. (From L. V. Saswaran, Caltex India Ltd., Ballard Estate, Bombay.)

PROGRESS REPORT ON FOREST ADMINISTRATION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

SRI SAI BABA'S CHARTERS AND SAYINGS. By B. V. Narasimhaswami. 74, Lloyds Road, Royapettah.

INTRODUCTION TO SAI BABA. By B. V. Narasimhaswami. 74, Lloyd's Road, Royapettah.

THE DECLINE OF RELIGION. By Cecil P. Martin. George, Allen and Unwin.

CONSCIENCE AND LIBERTY. By Robert S. W. Pollard. George, Allen and Unwin.

INDIAN STATES

The Princes' Chamber

VICEROY'S ADVICE TO PRINCES

His Excellency the Viceroy, opening the session of the Princes' Chamber on March 17, at Delhi, stressed the importance of the Rulers of States "taking all possible measures to continue to deserve the reverence of the subjects and to strengthen and buttress the foundation upon which it rests." "Union and co-operation," His Excellency continued, "are the foundation and the source of strength." Lord Linlithgow urged that the Princes should not allow themselves or their advisers to be diverted by any considerations of a personal character from ensuring that

"where co-operation is necessary, it shall take a form which no critic can assail on the ground that it is half-hearted. Such co-operation must, I recognise, involve sacrifices, as it must involve some surrender, or as I should prefer to say, some pooling of cherished sovereignty. But the need for such sacrifices is a stark reality, and I am wholly satisfied that those sacrifices, when they are made, will be amply repaid by results".

Nearly 45 Princes were present. H. E. the Marchioness of Linlithgow was among the distinguished visitors.

The Chamber of Princes concluded its two-day session on the 18th after passing two resolutions, one on British victories and the other recommending to the Crown Representative the establishment of the War Advisory Council with representatives of the States and of the provincial Governments or through some other suitable alternative to be evolved in consultation with the States.

The Chamber before adjourning heard a statement from the Chancellor reviewing last year's work. The Princes' reply to the speech by the Viceroy was read by the Chancellor, after which the Viceroy adjourned the session *sine die*.

Hyderabad

STATE BANK FOR HYDERABAD

The establishment of the Hyderabad State Bank is foreshadowed in the current year's budget. The institution which will naturally occupy the pivotal position in the State's banking and currency system, will be set up for the purpose of taking over the management of currency from Government and of carrying on the business of banking in accordance with provisions to be made.

The economic development of a State—be it agricultural or industrial—presupposes the existence of a sound and efficient banking and currency system. The agricultural and industrial development of the State has now reached a point where the present facilities for borrowing are found not only antiquated but also inadequate.

RELIGIOUS POLICY OF THE STATE

"It is the settled policy of the Ecclesiastical Department not to interfere with the religious beliefs of the people. It takes no part in proselytisation of any kind. The Government fully endorse this view and entertain no doubt that the Ecclesiastical Department will continue to act upon this policy," observes a Government resolution on the working of the State Ecclesiastical Department.

Within the State besides churches scattered all over it, there are 26,856 Hindu religious institutions including 24,000 temples existing side by side with 12,774 Muslim religious institutions including mosques numbering about 4,000.

Baroda

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The policy of consolidation of the co-operative movement continued to be followed by the Co-operative Department of the State during the year 1939-40.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,244 societies. Ninety societies were newly registered and thirty-seven were cancelled during the year. The total number of societies rose to 1,297, of which those actually working at the end of the year were 1,097. Of these 18 were central, 1,026 agricultural and 258 non-agricultural.

The number of societies and membership increased respectively from 1,244 and 60,879 to 1,297 and 65,920. The average membership per society rose to 51 from 49 during the previous year. The working capital increased from Rs. 95'81 lakhs to Rs. 101'98 lakhs. The increase under loans from the Government is the result of the policy of the Government to finance cottage industries in the State.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

A cash dearness allowance of rupee one per month from September to December 1940 and Rs. 1-5-8 a month from January 1941 till the end of the war to the Kamdars of the Baroda, Yamuna and Jagdish mills is the substance of the arbitrators' final award in the dearness allowance dispute, according to a statement issued by the Secretary, Majdoor Mahajans, Baroda. The workmen of Sayaji mill are to get a dearness allowance of annas 18 according to the award.

All mill workers earning up to Rs. 60 are entitled to the allowance.

The grain shops, which were opened in pursuance of the *ad interim* award are to be now closed.

Mysore

MINOR MUNICIPALITIES IN MYSORE

Reviewing the administration of the Town and Minor Municipalities in the State for the year 1939-40, Government observe that the financial condition of several municipal councils was not satisfactory and the prescribed minimum had not been maintained by many of them. Government impress on the Councils concerned that they should observe the strictest possible economy to restrict their expenditure only to obligatory items.

Government are glad to note that the members of the municipal councils continued to evince keen interest in the municipal administration, which was on the whole satisfactory.

The incidence of taxation ranged from Re. 0-5-0 in the Naikanhalli minor municipality to Rs. 7-4-0. in the Koppa minor municipality. In some of the councils, the arrears were very heavy, and Government point out that good collection is very essential for successful administration.

THE JOG FALLS PROJECT

In these days of the larger generation of electrical energy for the industrial advancement of the country, the water-falls play an important part. In Mysore, the Jog Falls has become important for the Hydro-Electric Project that has been in progress at the place.

The Jog Falls Project provides for works for the generation of electrical energy in four stages of 82,000 E.H.P. each. At present it is proposed to design the Works so as first to generate 64,000 E.H.P. and to be capable of expansion in future to provide another 64,000 E.H.P. or even more by suitable additions, which will prove economical now and in the long run.

Travancore

DEWAN FELICITATED

A delightful party on behalf of the people of Travancore to felicitate Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, the Dewan, on the conferment on him of the title of K.C.S.I. was got up on the Travancore University grounds last month.

In felicitating the Dewan on the title conferred on him, Dewan Bahadur Subramania Aiyar said that the significance of the honour was that it showed that service in an Indian State counted as much as service in the Government of India.

Replying, the Dewan said:

I have deliberately and of set purpose made up my mind that if I am allowed, I shall work for Travancore as a Travancorean. I hope and trust that as I have adopted Travancore as my second home and as a country in which I hope to live and serve so long as worldly activities are permitted to me by Providence and by myself, the people of Travancore of every class, community, creed and race, high and low, will bear with me and treat me as their adopted child, forgiving my shortcomings—and they must be countless—taking advantage of such powers and such resources as Providence has granted to and conferred on me and making use of me as a humble but willing agent for those great purposes and those great schemes, which I know are dear to the heart of our beloved Sovereign.

TRAVANCORE AND WAR SUPPLIES

The Government of India agreed to give representation to Travancore in the advisory committee on war supplies according to an announcement made in Travancore Legislative Assembly recently by the Dewan-President, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar.

TRIVANDRUM CORPORATION

The Corporation of Travancore at its last meeting held under the presidency of Mr. C. O. Madhavan, Mayor, decided to levy two fresh taxes. These are a tax on the companies working within the Corporation area and an entertainment tax on Houses of entertainment.

Cochin

AGREEMENT WITH TRAVANCORE

An agreement has been reached between the Governments of Cochin and Travancore regarding the supply of electricity to Cochin, as a result of which Cochin would get electricity from Pallivasal from June this year.

According to the present arrangements, the Government of Cochin will purchase power in bulk from Travancore Government at the following rates: For the first 5 million units 8·7 pies per unit; next five million units 8 pies per unit; next five million units 2·5 pies per unit; and for every excess 2 pies per unit.

An important point in the agreement is that the Cochin Government should allow the Travancore Government to take current from Pallivasal to Alleppey through Mattancherri-Cochin, if the latter Government desire to do so. The Travancore Government will be supplying current to Cochin at Travancore boundaries and the two Governments will construct transmission lines in their respective areas to carry the load and the work will be expedited.

Kolhapur

KOLHAPUR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The State Executive Council will consist of the Dewan to serve as President and the members Mr. Indulkar as Revenue Member, Mr. Bhosle as Home Member, and Mr. Savant as Judicial Member. The Dewan controls the political, foreign and feudatory affairs; Mr. Bhosle controls police, legislation, commerce and public works; Mr. Indulkar controls revenue, forest and survey; and Mr. Savant is in charge of justice.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

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Overseas Countries

MR. SASTRI ON INDIANS ABROAD

- The view that India had many reasons to struggle for equality in the British Commonwealth, one never to be forgotten among them being that it is the only means which will enable her to stand up for the rights of her nationals abroad, was expressed by the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, speaking at the inauguration function of the Forum at the Royapettah Y. M. C. A. on March 18.

Surveying the condition of Indians in several overseas countries like Malaya, South Africa, Ceylon and others, Mr. Sastri observed:

Facts are somewhat against us. We might be irritated, angry, humiliated and eager to do something, but we forgot that the facts of the situation left us comparatively powerless against those who torment us. While we had sent out our cheap, unorganised, perfectly manageable Labour to those countries in thousands and millions, our power to hit back was extremely limited by the fewness of the nationals of those countries in India. There was nothing for it but to fall back on the law.

There was another ugly fact in the situation, Mr. Sastri said, and this was that the so-called Imperial citizenship was unreal and was only a figment of the imagination.

A great constitutionalist, second to none in the British Empire, General Smutts, had admirably summed up the situation in a letter to him, in which he said: 'The British Empire knows no citizenship, it knows only subjecthood.'

Not only was each self-governing unit free to determine whom it would include in or exclude from its population, but it was open to it to discriminate between sections of its residents as Indians in South Africa were finding to their cost. It was a state of affairs enough to send them into a violent transport of impotent fury.

Mr. Sastri pointed out that in matters of high policy, India does not count as against the self-governing Dominions. Therefore it was, Mr. Sastri concluded,

that they had to press for equality with the Dominions,

as without this equality they could have no power to protect their nationals abroad. This was not only his opinion but the settled opinion of Mahatma Gandhi also, who used to tell people in South Africa and Kenya whenever they took their troubles to him: "Patch up your quarrels as best as you can. Come to some sort of settlement. Apply some temporary palliative. The real cure will come only when our struggle for equality within the British Commonwealth comes to a happy termination." This, in effect, was the fundamental truth of the matter.

Ceylon

INDIA AND CEYLON

Despite warnings by the Ceylon Governor and the opposition of the Chief Secretary to Government, Immigration Bills have been introduced in the Ceylon State Council drastically affecting Indians. By one of the Bills, future immigration is, in effect, prohibited. By the other Bill, a license is required for Indian settlers remaining in the island. The Ceylon Ministers seek to deport the bulk of the Indians to India by a denial of their rights. Emphatically protesting against the proposed Bills for registration of non-Ceylonese and control of immigration, the Ceylon Indian Congress, in the course of a resolution, considers that these Bills are absolutely unnecessary and vexatious, contrary to the express and implied agreements and understandings between the Government of India and Government of Ceylon and gravely prejudicial to the rights, interests and honour of Indians.

Germany

INDIAN PRISONERS IN GERMANY

Information has been received from the India Office that food and clothing parcels are being despatched regularly to Indian prisoners of war in Germany, says a Press Note.

Burma

INDIAN BUSINESSMEN IN BURMA

Excerpts from the proceedings of the Managing Committee of the Indian Chamber of Commerce reveal that the Chamber addressed a letter to the Central Board of Revenue, New Delhi, on November 18, bringing to the notice of the authorities the hardship entailed on several Indian businessmen settled in Burma as a result of the application of the provisions of the Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1939.

It was pointed out that such Indians, in spite of the fact that they had for a long time settled in Burma and had for all practical purposes cut off their relations with their respective places in India, had got some ancestral property which for reasons of sentiment they did not like to part with. It was further pointed out that the mere possession of some immovable property should not be construed as the maintenance of a dwelling house and that periodical short visits by the owners of such properties to India should not make them liable to assessment to income-tax in India.

South Africa

END OF CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT

"The new year has given another tragic blow to the Indian cause in South Africa," observes Swami Bhawani Dayal in the course of a statement, and wonders "how many of us have pondered over the significance of the fact that the abolition of the Agent-Generalship in its essence virtually amounts to the diplomatic termination of the Capetown Agreement."

"Let us be frank with ourselves about the position of the Capetown Agreement. Who will look after its

provisions to be transformed into actions?

In fact, the Capetown Agreement is no more a living issue; it is dead and buried. Indian leaders cannot be too careful in this matter. Unless they protect themselves and make their position clear beyond the shadow of a doubt, they may subscribe to a policy which may later on signify something very different from what they intended. It is hoped that the Indians will not be misled by the pronouncement that India's status has been raised to the sky in the creation of a new office of High Commissioner, but will take time by the forelock and demand an explanation from the India Government for their mysterious behaviour in abruptly closing the office of the Agency, which was originated especially to watch and protect the interests of the Indian community."

**Life Insurance on sound
lines is a kind of bene-
faction to the human race.**

—Sir Dinshaw Wacha.

**Place your Life Business
with INDIAN Insurance
Companies only.**



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



STUDENTS AND POLITICS

Writing on this much-discussed subject, Principal P. Seshadri commends in the pages of the *XX Century Mahatma* Gandhi's "golden advice which should be taken to heart by the entire student world of India and acted upon with diligence and care, not merely in their own interests but also in the larger interests of their country":

"Students cannot afford to have party politics," writes Mahatma Gandhi to the Secretary of the All-India Students' Federation. "They may hear all parties," he continues, "as they read all sorts of books, but their business is to assimilate the truth of all and reject the balance. That is the only worthy attitude that they can take. Power politics should be unknown to the student world. Immediately they dabble in that class of work, they cease to be students and will therefore fail to serve the country. Even if the whole of the student world were to repudiate me, I am not going to be deterred from tendering my advice for fear of rejection."

Mahatma Gandhi is right in saying that you cease to have the right intellectual attitude worthy of a student, if you took a partisan view and supported one side against the other which is an essential feature of all politics. At what exact age a person should take part in politics may be a matter of controversy, but it may be laid down as a general rule that it cannot be before one is able to have a fairly sound judgment and is able to come to sensible opinions for oneself. Nothing can be more injurious to the atmosphere of true study than the emotional excitement of politics.

The heat of controversy has a very unsettling effect on the mind and the chances are that when a young man takes to politics, he will not be able to do so in a spirit of sobriety and inoffensiveness, especially as he is so immature. The result may be a cantankerous and self-opinionated creature and not a representative of culture, rising to the heights of the famous definition of "sweetness and light" mentioned by Matthew Arnold, as its highest qualities. Students of English literature are acquainted with the fact that even a person of the calibre of Milton, when he descended into the realms of political and social controversy in his polemical pamphlets, was guilty of great lapses of taste and even positive bad manners.

The futility of students trying to take part in politics, and the poor results they can possibly achieve, is another argument in support of the thesis that it cannot be an advantage to anybody concerned.

Neither in money nor in brains, nor in work of any kind can the student community be expected to be useful as far as politics are concerned. Want of time is a formidable obstacle and the chances of disruption due to youthful tendency towards independent leadership is another danger. The only certain consequence is the student's sacrifice of his career for nothing.

Among the other reasons why educational authorities insist on the eschewing of politics from schools and colleges is that they may ensure as common a platform as possible for sympathetic contact between master and student, and among students themselves:

Once the ugly temper of political difference is allowed to invade the sanctity of educational institutions, there is an end of such an atmosphere. It marks the beginning of differences and ill-will fraught with the gravest of consequences to the institution. Let us remember that it is only by the avoidance of politics that we can ensure conditions of equality and freedom and make the young men of all communities and schools of opinion feel that they have all a common home of learning. There can be no political coercion, nor could there be any encouragement to possible conflicts in college. The professed lovers of freedom must be able to respect all differences of opinion and at least a school or college can set up no other ideal before it.

THE DEADLOCK IN INDIA

The American Edition of Pandit Nehru's *Autobiography* has an epilogue from the Pandit's pen, which is reproduced in the *New York Nation*. The Pandit, in bringing the narrative down to the date of the present war, observes that India was drawn into the struggle without a word of consent or even consultation.

What were we to do? For years past we had thought about this and proclaimed our policy. Yet in spite of all this, the British Government declared India to be a belligerent country without any reference to our people, to the Central Assembly, or to the provincial governments. That was a slight that was hard to take; for it signified that Imperialism functioned as before. The Congress Working Committee issued a long statement in the middle of September 1939, in which our past and present policy was defined and the British Government was invited to explain its war aims, more particularly in regard to British Imperialism. We had frequently condemned Fascism and Nazism, but we were more intimately concerned with the Imperialism that dominated over us. Was this Imperialism to go? Did they recognise the independence of India and her right to frame her own constitution through a Constituent Assembly? What immediate steps would be taken to introduce popular control of the Central Government? Later, in order to meet every possible objection of any minority group, the idea behind the Constituent Assembly was further amplified. It was stated that minority claims would be settled in this Assembly with the consent of the minority concerned and not by a majority vote. If such agreement was not possible in regard to any issue, then this was to be referred to an impartial tribunal for final decision. This was an unsafe proposal from a democratic point of view, but the Congress was prepared to go to almost any length in order to allay the suspicions of minorities.

The British Government's answer was clear. It left no doubt that they were not prepared to clarify their war aims or to hand over control of the government to the people's representatives. The old order continued and was to continue,

and British interests in India could not be left unprotected. The Congress ministries in the provinces thereupon resigned, as they were not prepared to co-operate on these terms in the prosecution of the war. The constitution was suspended and autocratic rule was re-established. The old constitutional conflict of Western countries, between an elected Parliament and the King's prerogative, which had cost the heads of two kings in England and France, took shape in India. But there was something much more than this constitutional aspect. The volcano was not in action, but it was there and rumblings were heard.

The impasse continued and meanwhile new laws and ordinances descended upon us by decree, and Congressmen and others were arrested in ever-growing numbers. Resentment grew and a demand arose for action on our side. But the course of the war and the peril of England itself made us hesitate; for we could not wholly forget the old lesson which Gandhiji had taught us, that our objective should not be to embarrass the opponent in his hour of need.

As the war progressed, new problems arose and the British Government, confronted with rude shocks in international dealings, continued their policy of appeasement abroad. If the British Government were slow of understanding and could not learn even from experience, what can one say about the Government of India, asks the Pandit.

There is something comic and something tragic about the functioning of this Government; for nothing seems to shake it out of its age-long complacency; neither logic nor reason, neither peril nor disaster. Like Rip Van Winkle, it sleeps, even though awake, on Simla hill.

The developments in the war situation posed new questions before the Congress Working Committee. Gandhiji wanted the Committee to extend the principle of non-violence to which we had adhered in our struggle for freedom, to the functioning of a free State. A free India must rely on this principle to guard itself against external aggression or internal disorder. This question did not raise itself for us at the time, but it occupied Gandhiji's mind, and he felt that the time had come for a clear enunciation. Every one of us was convinced that we must adhere to our policy of non-violence as we had so far done in our own struggle. The war in Europe had strengthened this conviction. But to commit the future State was another and a more difficult matter and it was not easy to see how any one moving on the plane of politics could do it.

Gandhiji felt, and probably rightly, that he could not give up or tone down a message which he had for the world. He must have freedom to give it as he liked and must not be

kept back by political exigencies. So, for the first time, he went one way and the Congress Working Committee another. There was no break with him; for the bond was too strong and he will no doubt continue to advise in many ways and often to lead. Yet it is perhaps true that by his partial withdrawal, a definite period in the history of our national movement has come to an end. In recent years, I have found a certain hardness creeping into him, a lessening of the adaptability that he possessed. Yet the old spell is there, the old charm works, and his personality and greatness tower over others. Let no one imagine that his influence over India's millions is any the less. He has been the architect of India's destiny for twenty years and more and his work is not completed.

Congress, at the instance of Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, made yet another offer to Britain.

Mr. Rajagopalachari is said to belong to the Right in the Congress. His brilliant intellect, selfless character, and penetrating powers of analysis have been a tremendous asset to our cause. He was the Prime Minister of Madras during the functioning of the Congress Government there. Eager to avoid conflict, he put forward a proposal which was hesitatingly accepted by some of his colleagues. This proposal was the acknowledgment of India's independence by Britain and the immediate formation at the Centre of a Provisional National Government, which would be responsible to the present Central Assembly. If this were done, this Government would take charge of defence and thus help in the war-effort.

This Congress proposal was eminently feasible and could be effectuated immediately without upsetting anything. The National Government was inevitably going to be a composite affair with full representation of minority groups. The proposal was definitely a moderate one. From the point of view of defence and war effort, it is patent that any serious effort involves the confidence and co-operation of the people. Only a national government has the chance to get this. It is not possible through Imperialism.

But Imperialism thinks otherwise and imagines that it can continue to function and to coerce people to do its will. Even when danger threatens, it is not prepared to get this very substantial help if it involves giving up political and economic control over India. It does not care even for the tremendous moral prestige which would come to it if it did the right thing in India and the rest of the Empire.

As I write this, the Viceroy has given us the British Government's reply. It is in the old language of Imperialism, and the content has changed in no way. The sands of time run out here in India, as in Europe and the world.

So many of my colleagues have gone back to prison, and I envy them somewhat. Perhaps it is easier to develop an organic sense of life in the solitude of confinement than in this mad world of war and politics, of Fascism and Imperialism.

LONDON CHILDREN

Time, the well-known New York Weekly, observes that the worst sufferers in the War are the children in the affected area. 12,000 young Londoners are growing up on the firing line.

For 80,000 of them, between the ages of 5 and 14, there were even worse dangers than falling bombs. London's compulsory education system had practically broken down. Though the London County Council sent truant officers after parents and children alike, the average daily school attendance was only 26,000. Half of London's grade schools had been battered into rubble, or commandeered for other uses. The 365 still open, carried on with fewer hours of schooling in crowded class-rooms, their lessons punctuated by air-raid warnings.

Many parents kept their children away, some for safety's sake. But teachers told of young boys put to work hawking firewood to bolster family earnings, of girls taught to beg money on street corners. Some children simply ran wild.

By 9 every morning, swarms of ferret-eyed, wax-skinned youngsters lined up with piles of bedding outside the tube shelters, waiting to go underground to hold the family 'pitch' till nightfall. Inside they played on the long platforms of the subway station, kept an eye open for the chance to steal a better sleeping space. Said one experienced mopper: 'School? I've got to get the seats, ain't I? Ma' goes home to do her work and sends me back to keep her place. Sometimes the women try to rush you. But they can't put it across me. I've got 'em beat.'

Efforts of Government and Press had failed to speed the evacuation of London's remaining children.

The mass transplantation reached a peak in October, when 10,000 women and children registered in single day, but then it stalled. In a final attempt, London's big dailies wrote long, persuasive feature stories. The Ministry of Health fired a barrage of publicity. Leaflets explained 'Why You Should Let Your School Children Go.' Its advertisements asked: 'Mothers, Are Your Children Still in the Danger Areas?' Six hundred door-to-door canvassers drank thousands of cups of tea in thousands of kitchens, patiently explained reasons for evacuation. All told, about 40,000 more children were sent away, but the rest would not go. President of the Board of Education, Herwald Ramsbotham, threw up his hands admitted: 'Compulsory evacuation of school children is politically and socially impossible.'

AMERICA AND THE WAR

"Evesdropper" of *Indian Finance* regards the passing of the Lease and Lend Bill as Democracy's authentic answer to the challenge of Germany, Italy, and Japan.

Now the Axis will know that the fate of Democracy is not in the hands of a hard-pressed island or even its far-flung Empire, but in those of a Power which is supreme over a whole hemisphere. German power rests on the effective stringing up of a number of countries and the pooling of their resources. On the side of Democracy, there has not till now been a similar phenomenon. The British Empire is distributed over the whole world and is not comparable in this view to the countries which Hitler has under his control. Now that President Roosevelt has the formal authority to convert the States into the great arsenal of democracy, the Axis is face to face with a combination which has unlimited potentialities of growth.

For the first time, therefore, the scales of war have been tilted against the Axis.

The old idea that Germany could concentrate the power of her air raids on Great Britain and keep in the background the vague threat of moving Japan in the Far East has to be abandoned. That Germany does not mistake the significance of America's aid is clear from the view current in Germany that American help will prolong the war. It is too much to expect a confession that it alters the entire look of things. But the admission that the Lease and Lend Bill will prolong the war is a confession of the disquiet that is prevalent in Germany. It could hardly be otherwise; for the Bill is but a beginning of radical changes that are yet to come. At the present stage it signifies primarily that the American people have at last defined their position to the war. At the beginning their reaction was one of unqualified adherence to the isolationist view. There was wide-spread fear that America might be coaxed into making large loans and then forced to throw good lives after bad money. Legislative safeguards against these dangers were tightened. But slowly the perils of isolationism became evident. The people were divided in mind. And Mr. Roosevelt skillfully assisted the public in its appreciation of facts. Now they know that their entry into the war, on which they still entertain strong views, is a matter of no great practical importance. What counts is the measure of help which America will extend to the Democracies. And thus, the President is now free to give to the fullest extent possible consistent with America's own defence requirements.

If the war should spread, the significance of the Lease and Lend Bill will prove almost immeasurable.

The Dominions of British Empire have taken forced marches towards complete independence. Canada, by virtue of her position, came under the Monroe Doctrine and is now within the scope of the American scheme of defending the Western Hemisphere. The position of Australia, too, is not far different. In view of the Japanese menace in the East, Australia is forced to consult and collaborate with the U. S. A. without the intermediacy of British Cabinet. The efforts of the Democracies to remove the menace of Fascism may even involve American aid in the development of India's resources in munitions. So mighty an effort is bound to change the complexion of the post-war settlement. Woodrow Wilson was an almost unwanted intruder in the Versailles Conference. Mr. Roosevelt's position would be far different. He may be found to champion democracy as vigorously after the war as during it.

STARS AND MEN

Mr. Frederick Carter, writing in the *Dublin Magazine*, says:

"The life of man is involved in the heavens as well as in the world beneath. His thought links itself with the cosmic figures that he established for his own better guidance in the skies. . . . And man's mind can only discover itself fully in the motions of the heavens and all the complex factors which reveal its processes. And so the secret of Time. For that end, man set the archaic images there to represent the profoundest symbols of his thought. And in succeeding ages, out of that imagery he has sought to interpret the plain significance of fate amid the rush and turmoil of passing events."

Men cannot but see that similar happenings recur. "To account for the immutable event we devise the banal saying that history repeats itself." The ancients "in their day saw the historic movements of humanity as controlled by the wide motions of the stars above and so marked their groupings and figures with high symbolical significance".

INDIA AS A VITAL BASE

Because of the possibility of a Sudan *blitzkrieg*, the British Government's handling of the Indian problem assumes new importance, comments the *London News Review*.

"After the last war, a Royal Commission was set up to inquire into the conduct of the campaign in Mesopotamia. One of the conclusions reached has a direct bearing on the position to-day, namely, that military operations in the Near or Middle East must be supported by an industrial base east of Aden. The point carries more force now than then owing to the mechanisation of the Italian Army and the awkward position in the Mediterranean resulting from the French collapse.

If Hitler and Mussolini between them could make the Mediterranean route unsafe, General Sir Archibald Wavell and his Army in the Near East would depend more than ever on supplies from India.

That country already produces pig-iron at the rate of 2,000,000 tons, steel ingots at a million tons, and finished steel at one million tons a year.

But there is no "Go To It" spirit among the Indian masses, whose Congress Party leaders demand self-government for India before they will preach co-operation with the British."

THE SCHOLAR'S REWARD

"The world expects scholars to get their reward in the discovery of truth and it may be hoped, says Douglas Bush in the *Atlantic Monthly*, "the world is right since they get nothing else".

"They toil for years, they scorn delights and live laborious days and when they have written a book, they are lucky if they can get it published. If they do, they usually have to pay for it, though

the professorial salary does not allow for subsidies to publishers. Sometimes, a scholar has the superlative good fortune to get a book published for nothing. Sometimes, the work of many years cannot get published at all. It is by no means a sufficient explanation to say that scholars can't write; many a scholar writes well, but if he objects to the cheaper arts of salesmanship, the world will have none of him. The popular middleman, however, spends a few months in a public library, dashes off a book in time for the Christmas lists and receives handsome royalties. The scholar meekly accepts the way of the world, but he does wonder now and then why the swift-footed gentlemen of letters do not more often pause to take account of scholars' findings."

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U. F.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION

Under the heading "Viswarupa", Mr. S. V. Ramamurti, I.C.S., contributes an article to the latest quarterly journal *Triveni*. Science and religion, according to the writer, seek the union of multiplicity and unity, but they start from opposite ends. Mr. Ramamurti explains:

The way between multiplicity and unity is long and difficult. It is perhaps to be expected that, for all except the hardest spirits, science tends to believe primarily in multiplicity, and to believe in unity only so far as the multiplicity of observers can see. So too in religions, the perceiver of unity tends to be obscured in his vision of multiplicity. The way to rectify science is more science, and religion more religion. Each is the other when completed. Incomplete, they are subject to dangerous short-circuiting.

The view of being both as multiplicity and as unity is itself one step removed from the view of being as having no quality whether of multiplicity or of unity. Unity is the simplest form of multiplicity. It is also the concrete form of no quality; for a unity has no quality other than being itself. Being then has two fronts—that which is the source of becoming and that which is the goal of becoming. These are the Sakti and Purusha of Hindu thought. Purusha is the unity of being, into which all the desires of Sakti, all the processes of becoming lead.

The reconciliation of science and religion, for which the whole world is searching, is possible only in Hinduism, says the writer. For,

Hinduism is the religion of Viswarupa which is the form of the universe in which God is imminent. To the Hindu, the world is a flow which can ignore neither matter through and from which it flows nor spirit into and through which it flows. There is room in Viswarupa for all forms of energy, all existences, all categories of being, all qualities of becoming and yet it can never transcend the unity of God for which all religion stands. The reconciliation of science and religion, for which two continents of thought are searching, is possible in the old and yet young vision of Hinduism.

This vision of Viswarupa is needed now in India more than in the past when India is emerging from a *pralaya* of stagnation. India needs to keep before herself more than ever the concrete expression which the South Indian artist has given to Viswarupa in the conception and execution of the figure of Nataraja.

BRITAIN AND INDIA

"The finest anti-Nazi material is in India and it is nothing short of a tragedy that she is still mainly unreconciled," says Sir S. Radhakrishnan in the first issue of the new quarterly *Art and Culture*. "If freedom of all people is the aim of this war, as it should be, then those who were conquered in the past must be set free."

To win the war will not mean much if it does not remove the great wrongs of the present world. We must demonstrate even to the enemy that we reverence the ideals of justice and freedom which we condemn him for rejecting.

British statesmen do not seem to realise sufficiently what new forces are at work which require a new outlook and interpretation. We need not doubt that the present government contains as high an average of ability as was ever found in a British Cabinet.

Its members, however, are fitted more to carry on traditional administration than appreciate new factors or initiate new policies. The Prime Minister, who is bending all his indisputable genius and prodigious energies to the supreme task of winning this war has, in spite of his boldness and vision, become a specialist and is studiously reticent on the Indian question. The other members belong to an era that has passed.

The position of Britain in the world has radically changed, and the old policy of slow compromise and fine adjustment is out of date.

New, strange, inconsequent forces are at work upsetting the old calculations. Statesmen cast in the old form with their servility to established institutions are not adequate to the new conditions.

Those who are in charge of India have the traditional virtues of dignity, honour, efficiency and even selflessness. They are most competent members of traditional governments, but are too firmly set in the old ways to be useful in the new world. They are immensely intelligent but highly insensitive.

Otherwise it is impossible to understand a policy which does not countenance the establishment of a popular government, which does not trust the leaders of the people with the task of building up the neglected defences of India and organising aircraft and shipbuilding industries in the country.

The sands are now running out. Will British statesmen take courage and give content to the noble phrases they utter and weld together in a great democratic federation India and Britain for mutual service and the service of the world?

NUDE SCULPTURES

"Erotic scenes on the temples of Orissa," is the subject of an interesting article in the latest issue of the *Journal of the Benares Hindu University* by Mr. Bhagwat Saran Upadhyaya, who justifies the presence of nude carvings in stones, not only in temples in Orissa but also in other parts of India by arguing that the cult of nudity is as old as the second century B.C.

Already the Indian mind had conceived of a lustful cult of the Yaksas and Yaksis, and so early as the Sunga period we come across the Yakai images on the railing pillars of Sanchi and Bharhut which are semi-nude. The activities of the cult became even more pronounced as the Kusana and Gupta periods approached. The Muttra Museum is full of nude and semi-nude Yakai figures of the Kusana period. And during the reign of Chandra Gupta II Vikramaditya, the great Sanskrit poet Kalidasa made a Yaksa the hero of his immortal lyric Meghaduta. Thus the Yaksas and Yaksis by the time of the Kusanas had come to represent both love and lust. On the Kusana railing pillars beautifully ornamented, Yakai figures have been carved in high relief and are almost wholly nude except for a line running on the ankles to show that they are not. These generally bear the symbols of the spring—the *amramanjari* and the wine jar and the peg (*casaka*)—and standing in many cases under an *asoka* tree, they press under their feet the dwarf male. This dwarf male is the poor wordly man who crushed under the weight of his own iniquitous desires (which take the form of the nude Yaksis in the sculptural composition) lies crouching beneath.

What is the significance of the nude cult which pervades in temple architecture after the Buddhist period. The author explains:

The Yakai figures are carved on railing pillars which ran round the stupas, commemorative of the *Nirvana* or some great incident in the life of the Master. The stupa represented the bliss outside the world. It is significant that each railing pillar is carved on the reverse with the scene of a *Jataka* story supposed to have been taken from an incident of the life of a previous Buddha. It may be noted that the nude Yakai figures on the railing pillars would lie towards the world while the scene of the *Jataka* story would face the stupa, symbolical of bliss, while the devotees would go about in the *pradaksinabhumi* keeping an eye on the scene of renunciation on the railing pillar through which the idea of the stupa, i.e., of the highest bliss, would be achieved. And

outside was the world, vile and vicious, where poor, petty man was being crushed under the weight of his own desires that take the form of the Yakai or that is represented by the woman.

It was because of this that Buddha was against admitting a woman into the Sangha and when one was actually admitted, he is reported to have said: "Ananda without a woman, the Sangha would endure a thousand years, but now since you have introduced one to it, it will live only for five hundred years."

CINEMA AND RADIO

Mr. E. M. Hough writes to the *Aryan Path* for March on the value of Cinema and Radio as means of education. Their value in formal education is vast and only a beginning has so far been made towards utilizing them adequately in the schools. The writer says that

films of historic accuracy can help incidentally to popularize the old wisdom which the race still needs today. Moreover, the choice of truly admirable characters for such depiction can render the children the greatest possible service of furnishing them with a worthy living ideal.

The presentation of short films of scenes in typical homes of foreign lands, of street scenes in their cities, of children at play or at school, should not be too expensive to produce on a co-operative basis and would do much to broaden the outlook and to spread the sense of acquaintanceship and of sympathy with foreigners on which the spirit of international fraternity must rest. It is a mistake to choose invariably the unusual and the spectacular as the basis of an interpretative film. The cinema can fill the place of travel for the stay-at-homes and it serves that purpose best when it presents the quiet pattern of day-to-day living in foreign lands. Rightly filmed, the latter will interest the cinema-goer exactly as every-day scenes intrigue the foreign visitor.

Similarly, the radio can be used to great advantage in the class-room, to acquaint the pupils with good music, Western and Eastern.

Occasional inspiring short addresses, broadcasted by outstanding thinkers and keyed to the mental level of a school audience also would be a valuable addition to the curriculum.

INDIAN FISCAL POLICY

In the course of a paper published in the *Journal of the Indian Merchants Chamber*, Dr. John Matthai observes that the position of industries after the war is causing a great deal of concern to industrial interests in the country.

It must be expected that when the war comes to an end, the position of Indian industries, both old established industries and industries which have come into existence or considerably extended their output since the war, will become extremely difficult. It would, therefore, be advisable to examine in advance the lines on which the policy of Protection should be revised to meet the difficult times which lie ahead. It is necessary, in the first place, to re-examine the principle underlying the policy. The conditions laid down by the Fiscal Commissions have not merely become out-of-date in important respects, but the working of Discriminating Protection has revealed the need for recasting these conditions on simpler and more practical lines. The present conditions are unduly stringent, ambiguously worded and difficult to work. A complete revision of the basis of our protective policy with reference to present conditions and in the light of the results of the working of the present policy should be taken up without delay.

The machinery required for administering protection so as to render its working speedier and more effective should also be examined.

As a means of securing promptness, continuity and proper supervision of protected industries, it is suggested that the Tariff Board should be replaced by the appointment of a single Tariff Commissioner with the Government of India, who would take over (1) the preliminary investigations now carried out by the Commerce Department; (2) dispose of all applications of a minor character; and (3) be charged with the responsibility of supervising the working of protected industries.

In the case of more important enquiries, the Tariff Commissioner should have the assistance of two colleagues with the requisite experience and knowledge of industrial and business problems co-opted for the purpose of each enquiry. Under this proposal, the effective working of the machinery will primarily depend on the person chosen for the post of Tariff Commissioner and the expert staff with which he is provided.

WAR AND THE BIRTH-RATE

Belligerent countries experience a fall in their birth-rates during the war, but usually a rise in the rate after the close of the war for obvious reasons. The New York correspondent of the *Insurance World*, writing in the February number, draws a comparison to the period after the world war of 1914-18.

These variations vary markedly in degree in different countries on account of the influence of such factors as the length and the intensity of the conflict, the rapidity with which it develops in each country, and the extent and duration of invasion of the belligerent's own territory. The experience during and after the World War, 1914-18, is of current interest, because it may give us some indication of the probable trend of the birth-rate during the next few years in the warring countries.

In the years immediately after the War, there was a rapid rise in the birth-rate. In Germany, Hungary, Austria, Belgium, and Bulgaria this occurred as early as 1919, but in England, France, and Italy a substantial rise in the birth-rate was not recorded until 1920. But even the maximum post-war birth-rates were usually below the pre-War averages. The post-War rise in birth-rates, moreover, was purely temporary; only France experienced a slight rise in the birth-rate as compared with the pre-War rate.

It is likely, says the Correspondent, that the present war will have similar effects on the birth-rate as did the last war.

INDIA IN PERIODICALS.

MASS EDUCATION IN INDIA. By A. Ghose, M.A. [The Calcutta Review, February 1941.]

THE DIFFICULTIES OF INDIAN ART CRITICISM. By Prof. S. N. Misra. [The XX Century, March 1941.]

TEMPLES IN TRAVANCORE. By R. V. Puduval. [Travancore Information, March 1941.]

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF INDIA. By P. Kallukaren. [The New Review, March 1941.]

HINDU EPISTOMOLOGY AND MODERN THOUGHT. By V. S. Talasikar. [The Aryan Path, March 1941.]

THE BRITISH ADMINISTRATION OF THE DELHI TERRITORY. (1803-57). By Dr. T. G. F. Spear. [Journal of Indian History.]

THE ADVENT OF ARYANS INTO INDIA. By Prof. Charanjit Singh Bindra. [Prabuddha Bharata, March 1941.]

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS # DEPARTMENTAL # NOTES

Questions of Importance

BOMBAY CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

The following is the text of the resolution moved by Sir N. N. Sircar, former Law Member, Government of India, and adopted unanimously at the Bombay Conference of Non-party leaders on March 15:

While India dislikes the idea of taking advantage of Britain's difficulties in her heroic struggle, the Conference is equally desirous that India's domestic problems should not be pressed to her disadvantage.

As a first step towards ending the present deadlock, and until a permanent constitution is brought into force, the Conference desires to emphasise the immediate need for the reconstruction of the Governor-General's Executive Council.

The Conference considers that the present Council, which consists of three European members from the Indian Civil Service and three Indians, of whom two are non-officials and one is a member of the Indian Civil Service, in addition to H. E. the Viceroy and H. E. the Commander-in-Chief, is neither adequate nor sufficiently representative to organise and direct India's war effort at this moment of grave peril.

The Conference is anxious that India's defences should be put on a firm basis and that the resources of this great country, in men and material, should be used to the fullest advantage not only to defend her own frontiers but to help the British people to the fullest extent possible, consistently with the best interests of India.

For the reasons mentioned above this Conference is of the opinion that the whole Executive Council should consist of non-official Indians drawn from important elements in the public life of the country. This would naturally involve the transfer of all portfolios, including the vital ones of Finance and Defence to Indians, while the Conference is willing, during the period of the war, that the reconstructed Centre may remain responsible to the Crown; and so far as Defence is concerned, the position of the Commander-in-Chief, as the executive head of the Defence forces of the country, may not be, in any way, prejudiced.

At the same time, the Conference is strongly of the view that the reconstructed Government should not merely be a collection of departmental heads, but should deal with all important matters of policy on a basis of joint and collective responsibility. In regard to all inter-Imperial and international matters, the

reconstructed Government should be treated on the same footing as the Dominion Governments.

The Conference is further of the opinion that to create a favourable atmosphere for the working of the reconstructed Central Government it is necessary to remove the doubts and misgivings of the people of this country as regards the genuineness of the intentions of His Majesty's Government by making a declaration simultaneously with the reconstruction of the Central Government that within a specified time limit, after the conclusion of the war, India will enjoy the same measure of freedom as will be enjoyed by Britain and the Dominions.

The Conference authorizes its president, the Rt. Hon. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, to communicate the terms of the resolution to H. E. the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India, and to take such other steps as may be necessary to achieve its objects.

INDIAN TROOPS IN ACTION

In the Council of State on March 10, in reply to a question by Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh, H. E. the Commander-in-Chief, Lt.-General Sir Claude Auchinleck, stated:

I welcome the opportunity afforded me by the Hon. Member to pay a personal tribute on the floor of this House to the magnificent part troops from India have played in destroying the threat of Italian aggression in and from North Africa.

Both British and Indian troops sent from this country, some of them as far back as the summer of 1930, have shown and continue to show a quality of training and fighting spirit second to none.

For many months these troops had to fill a role involving waiting on the defensive in anything but comfortable conditions on the hot desert plains of western Egypt and the Sudan.

They faced an enemy immensely superior in numbers, and possessed at that time of overwhelming superiority in the air.

In conditions far from inspiring, our troops never flagged in their zeal, and, as more and more equipment of the most modern type was supplied to them, they trained day after day with remarkable will and cheerfulness.

The result is already history. . . .

British and Indian troops had the honour of dealing the initial blow, which shattered the Italian threat to Egypt. . . .

DR. SAPRU ON THE IMPASSE

An earnest appeal to the Government of India to take the initiative in getting together leaders of the Congress and the Moslem League in an effort to resolve the present deadlock and if that attempt failed, to mobilise the large mass of unattached opinion in the country, was made by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, opening the conference of non-party leaders at Bombay on March 14. After referring to the "short-sighted" decision of the Congress to withhold help to Britain in the war, Sir Tej continued:

Frankly speaking I maintain and maintain very strongly that there has never been a Government of India more isolated from public opinion and from the main current of thought in the country than the present Government of India. The members of the Government of India should appear before the public, take the public into confidence, and they must not assume that the Indian Legislature, respectable bodies as they are, or one or two important political bodies constitute the whole of India. I should like to see members of the Government of India appearing on the public platform and telling us what really is happening. . .

I believe we have already exposed ourselves to a great deal of ridicule in this country and outside for our inability to compose our differences even at this critical junctures. It is therefore that I make an earnest appeal to these two bodies (the Congress and the Muslim League) and their distinguished leaders, to meet to discuss things among themselves and devise some formula for a settlement of the outstanding disputes, because it is imperative that some day or other these disputes should be settled. If it seems necessary for either of these two bodies, or to both of them, to requisition the services of any one of us as common friends, I am sure, none of us will stint our service.

But if those bodies were not prepared to compose their differences then the Conference should be prepared for some alternative.

It is not enough for the British Government to repeatedly refer to the existence of unfortunate differences. It is also necessary for the Government to say that they have done their best and that they are ready to do their best to bring about a reconciliation between the two bodies. In that respect the British Government had done practically nothing. It is not enough for the Viceroy to invite 53 men and see them individually or in groups.

Why could not the Government of India master courage and get together the leaders of the two parties and call a conference. They should have done that long ago. When a critical situation of the same character arose in 1917 the then Viceroy Lord Chelmsford called a war conference at which Princes were represented, the Congress, as it was in those days was represented, and even Mr. Gandhi was present it gave a great stimulus to the activity in the country in support of the war at that time.

It is, therefore, impossible to understand the present policy of the Government of India. I have reason to believe that if the Government of India move in the matter or if the Secretary of State move in the matter, those might be called upon to shoulder the burden who are willing, not permanently but only as a temporary measure, during the period of the war. They would be prepared to vacate the places if and when the Congress or the Moslem League or both, were willing to take up the burden. It all depended on who the men were who were selected.

I refuse to believe that the country of 400 millions is so devoid of men of experience and character that it would be impossible for the Government of India to find ten or twelve men who would command public support and confidence. An attempt should, therefore, be seriously made to bring the two parties together and to persuade them to assume responsibility. But if that attempt failed there is no reason why an attempt should not be made to bring into the seats of power other men who are ready to serve the best interests of the country not in the spirit of careerists or office-seekers but in the spirit of servants of the country who would not hesitate to make room for others.

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, winding up the proceedings of the Conference, said that it was absurd for any one to believe that the fortunes of 400,000,000 people could be settled by radio broadcasts and statements to the Press. He invited the Secretary of State for India and half a dozen British members of Parliament to visit India and see things for themselves so that they could come to definite decisions regarding the future of India. The president deeply deplored "the lack of imagination and big-heartedness on the part of British statesmen in dealing with the complicated problem of India".

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru has appointed a Standing Committee of the Conference to implement the resolution passed by the Conference.

THE MADRAS REGIMENT

The Commander-in-Chief's amendment to Pandit Kunzru's resolution regarding the expansion of the Indian Army was approved unanimously by the Council of State.

His Excellency's speech, which was heard with attention and interest, contained sympathetic references to the claim of Madras. He explained how the efficiency of the old Madras Army gradually deteriorated on account of the threat to India being shifted from the south to the north-west. Lack of proper communications stood in the way of the Madras Army being shifted north and this necessitated recruitment in the north. His Excellency added that it was not the fault of Madras that the Madras Army as a whole lost its efficiency.

I may perhaps mention that since the war began, the strength of the Madras in the Army has risen from something like four thousand to well over ten thousand and is being still further increased at a rapid rate. The same process is proceeding in respect of other classes, but it is a slow process because there are no established units from which the nucleus of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers can be drawn. These must, therefore, be drawn from other classes and retained with the newly-raised units until these can find their own junior leaders. With our present system of class composition, I think it is essential that men of each class should have its own leaders with whose speech and temperament they are familiar, rather than that they should have over them men, who, though Indian, may perhaps be alien to them in speech, creed and habits.

His Excellency announced that he had already issued instructions that the Old Madras Regiment, which finally disappeared in 1926, should be revived and restored to its rightful place in the Army List.

The first battalion of this regiment, which will be a regular battalion, is to be raised forthwith and will carry on its colours the battle honours of the Old Madras Army some of which go back to nearly two hundred years. I hope before long to be able to ensure the permanent representation of other provinces hitherto not mentioned in the Army List in the same way.

UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS

In the Council of State, Pandit Kunzru moved a resolution recommending that the University Training Corps in India be trained and utilized like the Officers Training Corps at the British Universities.

He said that the central purpose of his resolution was to ask that the training of members of the U. T. C. should not be limited to that given to the rank and file. Advantage should be taken of their education to fit them for the performance of more responsible duties.

Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief, replying on the debate, announced that he had issued instructions for reviewing and improving the syllabus of the U. T. C. and this work was now in hand. He was also considering to introduce the system of certificates for efficiency, which might shorten the period of training taken by a cadet to get his commission.

Sir Claude Auchinleck said that he would do his best to make the syllabus for the U. T. C. training as comprehensive and attractive as was possible. He would also give his best consideration to the question of introducing the system of certificates for efficiency, which might shorten the period of training for obtaining a commission for the members of the U. T. C.

Lastly, he would also examine the possibility of a separate interview board for the U. T. C. as far as recruitment for the officer rank in the Army was concerned. With these assurances he hoped that the resolution would be withdrawn.

The resolution was accordingly withdrawn and the Council adjourned.

DR. SAPRU ON UNIVERSITIES

Delivering the convocation address to the Calcutta University on March 8, the Rt. Hon. Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru observed:

I have often asked myself the question as to what it is that the Universities may be expected to do at this time in our onward march; for while no one is more anxious than I that the academic serenity of our Universities should not be rudely disturbed by what are at times called the baser mundane pursuits, I also maintain that from a practical point of view no University in India can afford to live a sheltered life of isolation from the great steam of national life. It, therefore, seems to me that on two sides of their work the Universities can render lasting services to the country. On the scientific side I think our professors and post-graduate scholars can do a great deal to enrich the industrial and economic life of the country by the results of their researches. The field open to them is immense, the example of other countries whose economic and industrial prosperity is in no small measure due to the scientific work of their professors, teachers and graduates, should inspire them in this work, and in my opinion it should be the primary duty of every Provincial Government—and indeed of the Central Government—to help them in a generous measure with grants for the purpose of such useful pursuits. On the cultural side—and I use the word 'culture' in its largest sense as being something larger than mere book lore—the Universities can be a focus and centre for the synthesis of different cultures and for the evolution of that common culture which should be the highest aim of Indian nationalism to achieve, if that phrase is not merely an empty phrase or a deceptive slogan. . . .

To-day, the fundamental problem, which we have to solve, is the freedom of India, that is to say, the achievement by her of a position and the attainment of powers which may enable her to mould her future according to her best judgment and give her a place of equality and honour in the comity of nations. It is easy enough to state this proposition, but difficult to rescue it from the chaos which surrounds it. It is somewhat significant that nearly all the doctrines, under the spell of which we find one section or another of the country at present, are of Western origin, and, if I may speak frankly, Europe at present should be a warning to us rather than an example to follow. . . .

Is it altogether impossible for us to combine, and to unite for the achievement of common aims? Let the Universities—I say in all sincerity—rise superior to the tyranny of slogans and let them take stock of the situation as it is and of the forces working round and let them gaze upon the future steadily and advise the country accordingly. Let them be the seed-beds of a fertile unity and not the breeding places of a desolating disunity.

MADRAS SANSKRIT COLLEGE

The Founder's Day of the Madras Sanskrit College and the Venkataramana Dispensary was celebrated last month at the College premises, Mylapore. The Hon. Mr. Justice B. Somayya presided and others present included Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar (President of the Committee of Management) and the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri.

Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar, welcoming the gathering, said that the Sanskrit College had been in existence for 85 years and had been endeavouring to fulfil the aims of its founder, the late Mr. V. Krishnaswami Ayyar.

Prof. D. S. Sarma, Principal, Pachaiyappa's College, delivered the commemoration address.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY IN SIND

The Hon'ble Pir Illahi Bux, Education Minister, announced on the floor of the Sind Assembly that the Government had decided to revoke the orders of the Mir Ministry refusing recognition to non-Sindhi primary schools and withdrawing grants-in-aid to Gujarati, Marathi and other language schools other than Sindhi. He said that the Government would consider all schools on the same footing in the matter of grants.

BENARES UNIVERSITY

The total number of students on the rolls of the University was 8,608, showing an increase of 228 over the corresponding figures of last year. Out of these 2,808 lived in the University Hostels and approved lodges, the remaining were day scholars.

PATHAN MONEY-LENDERS

To check the growing 'menace of Pathan money-lenders' in the City of Madras, the Government have amended the Madras City Police Act empowering the Commissioner of Police with additional powers.

A statement issued by the Government in this connection says :—

Serious complaints have been received by the Government that these money-lenders ill-treat their debtors. It is reported that they freely resort to intimidation and threats of personal violence and that at times even criminal force is used by them for the recovery of their dues. There have been cases where in the absence of the debtors the members of their families have been intimidated and assaulted.

The Amended Act empowers the Commissioner of Police to order such money-lenders to conduct themselves properly or quit the city.

PROHIBITION ACT *ULTRA VIRES*

Sub-Section 45 (1-A) of the Madras Prohibition Act is *ultra vires* of the powers of the Madras Legislature as it prohibits the possession of *ganja* altogether and is therefore repugnant to the Hemp and Drugs Rules, observed the Chief Justice delivering judgment on March 17, on behalf of the Full Bench of the Madras High Court, which heard the criminal revision petition in what is known as the Madras prohibition cases.

The convictions of three accused under the Prohibition Act for the possession of *ganja* within the limits allowed by the Abkari Act were, therefore, set aside.

In the fourth case, their Lordships found the accused guilty under the Abkari Act as the accused possessed *ganja* exceeding the limit allowed by the Act and remarked that the conviction would not hold good under the Prohibition Act.

In view of the full bench decision holding that Sub-Section 401-A of the Madras Prohibition Act is *ultra vires* of the powers of the Madras Legislature so far as possession of *ganja* or any other dangerous drug is concerned, it is learnt the Government of Madras propose to rectify the defect and regularize the position by necessary legislative action.

REFERENCES TO FEDERAL COURT

A special reference has been made to the Federal Court by the Governor-General under Section 213 (1) of the Government of India Act 1935, in the matter of the following questions of law :—

1. Does either the Hindu Women's Rights to Property Act, 1937, Central Act XVIII of 1937, or the Hindu Women's Rights to Property (Amendment) Act, 1938 (Central Act XI of 1938) operate to regulate (a) succession to agricultural land? (b) devolution by survivorship of property other than agricultural land?

2. Is the subject of devolution by survivorship of property other than agricultural land included in any of the entries in the three legislative lists in the seventh schedule to the Government of India Act 1935?

SIR SIVASWAMI AIYAR'S PORTRAIT

Glowing tributes were paid to the qualities of Sir P. S. Sivaswami Aiyar as a lawyer, administrator and citizen by the Hon. Sir Lionel Leach, the Chief Justice, and Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Aiyar, Advocate-General, at a meeting held under the auspices of Advocates' Association of Madras on March 14, for the unveiling of a portrait of Sir Sivaswami Aiyar. The portrait was presented to the Association by Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri.

NON-LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS

The Insurance Year Book for 1988 discloses a most unsatisfactory position as regards the Indian companies' share in the non-life branches (*e.g.*, fire, motor, accident and marine) of the insurance business. During 1988, the total premium income of Indian companies from all non-life business in India amounted to Rs. 89 lakhs only. As compared with that the premium income of non-Indian companies from non-life business transacted in India was rupees one crore and 92 lakhs, that is, more than double the Indian companies' income. What makes the position more regrettable is the fact, says a critic, that the non-life business of Indian companies instead of disclosing an upward tendency actually got a set-back. For the premium income for 1988 was less than the 1987 figure by seven lakhs. The decline in the non-life business of Indian companies outside India was much more phenomenal and alarming. In 1987, the amount of such premium income was rupees one crore and eight lakhs which declined to Rs. 78 lakhs only in 1988. Since then, the war has certainly added to the difficulties of Indian companies doing business outside India.

REGISTRATION OF COMPANIES

The scale of charges contemplated by Government for renewal of registration of insurance companies are given in the report of the Select Committee on the Insurance Act Amendment Bill presented by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar in the Assembly. The report says the charges will be such as to fix the fee at Rs. 100 where the annual premium income of the insurer in the class of business

concerned is rupees one lakh, Rs. 200 when it exceeds one but does not exceed two lakhs, Rs. 300 when it exceeds two but not four lakhs, Rs. 500 when it exceeds four but not six lakhs, Rs. 750 when it exceeds six, but not 10 lakhs, and Rs. 1,000 when it exceeds 10 lakhs. The scale will also secure that the total of the fees payable in respect of all classes of business exclusive of life insurance business will not exceed Rs. 1,500.

The Committee say, they understand, that conditions will be prescribed to provide that an agent who has secured policies on its different lives including his own is a bona fide agent.

In a separate note appended to the report, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Haji Esaak Sait and Mr. Ghiasuddin say, they understand, that Government's contribution to the cost of the working of the insurance department would not be more than Rs. 1,50,000. They add they would like it made clear that Government's contribution will not be less than this amount and that in future, if circumstances demand, this contribution will not be the maximum.

WAR TIME INSURANCE

The Government scheme for War Risks insurance of commodities provides for fixation quarterly of the rate of premium to be charged, states a press *communiqué*.

In the first two quarters during which the scheme has been in force, it was found possible to charge the low rate of half an anna per Rs. 100 per month, but in the present circumstances Government have decided that it is necessary to raise this rate and that the rate for the quarter beginning on April 1, 1941, shall be one anna per Rs. 100 per month.

SUPPLY OF RICE

In the Council of State, the Labour Secretary, Mr. H. C. Prior, told Mr. Shantidas Askuran that production of rice in India during the current year was likely to show a decrease of 18.5 per cent. as compared with the average of the last three years. The Government will, he added, adopt such measures as were necessary and possible to ensure that there was a sufficiency of rice in India to meet the needs of the people.

As for the question whether ships on the Indian register requisitioned by the Government would be released for the purpose of carrying rice from Burma to India, Mr. Prior said that such ships would be released as soon as the urgent needs of the war situation rendered this possible.

CUSTOMS AGREEMENT

The *United Press* learns under the agreement recently executed with the Government of India regarding customs and other matters, the Government of Free French India will get annually Rs. 6,20,000 from the Government of India, who have taken charge of supervision of customs arrangements in Pondicherry and Karaikal.

Under this arrangement, excise restrictions applicable to British India will also apply to French India.

No arms and ammunition will be manufactured in French India, and books and literature prohibited in British India would not be published in French India.

The agreement is likely to continue till March 31, 1942, or any subsequent year until one year's notice of termination is given on either side.

PROTECTIVE DUTIES

A bill to continue for another year the existing protective duties on iron and steel manufactures, silver thread and wire and sugar was introduced by Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar in the Central Assembly on March 18.

It is explained that these existing duties are due to expire this month, and under present conditions it is impossible to ascertain the quantum of protection, if any, required during normal years for the different articles; hence the decision to maintain the *status quo* for another year.

The Commerce Member also introduced a Bill to continue the protective duties on wheat and wheat flour. Since the passing of the Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Act 1940, the Government of India, it is explained, have maintained a careful watch on the course of wheat prices and they are satisfied that taking all circumstances into consideration, it is desirable to continue the protective duties on wheat and wheat flour. The Bill, therefore, proposes to extend the existing import duties on these commodities for a further period of one year, namely, upto March 31, 1942.

INDO-BURMA TRADE

It is learned that the Government of Burma has arranged to meet the representatives of the Burma Chamber of Commerce, the Burmese Chamber, the Burma Indian Chamber and the Chinese Chamber on various dates to discuss with them questions relating to Indo-Burma trade negotiations.

MRS. BRIJLAL NEHRU ON EDUCATION

A plea for a thorough overhauling of the system of education in order to equip the individual with the necessary training to get the best out of life and to fit him to be a useful member of society was made by Mrs. Brijlal Nehru, President of the All-India Women's Conference, delivering the Convocation Address at the Lahore College for Women.

She said that it was necessary for a woman to have a profession as it was for a man, without which women's economic independence could not be achieved. "Marriage is a vocation by itself," she remarked, "and every woman, in addition to her own profession, should be specially equipped with training to fulfil the obligations of marriage life."

She advised the girl students to take full advantage of the opportunities offered to them by modern education and asked them to study psychology and more particularly psycho-analysis.

THE WOMAN'S LOT IN GERMANY

When Hitler came to power, the people were told that, while men "ruled the world," women "ruled the kitchen". War however and wartime economy have made this rule of the kitchen an illusion. At least 15,000,000 German women are now working 10 hours a day in factories.

Many women in factories are suffering from exophthalmic and other goitres. These complaints are signs of glandular disorder due to overstrain. Insomnia, restlessness and palpitations are other less obvious symptoms of the epidemic indisposition among women workers in German factories.

Probably the frequent suicides among working-class women are due to the attacks of depression to which people with glandular troubles are subject.

Equality of treatment for women in the Third Reich is confined to the concentration camp. At the women's concentration camp at Lichthurg in Pomerania, the inmates are in the care of S. S. men. Women prisoners have to do the same heavy work as men carrying railway sleepers, breaking stones, working on road-making for 12 hours a day in the hot sun or in rains and also receive the same punishments as the men.

BURMESE PRINCESS' STATEMENT

In the course of a statement, Princess Ashin Teiksu Nyut Paya Latt, Second Princess of Burma, says that her attention had been drawn to a statement published regarding the so-called "request by the daughter of Burma's ex-King."

"I have never sent," she adds, "or authorised any one to send such telegrams to the Premier of Burma or the Government. My husband and I do not see any necessity for such a request. We believe in the free citizenship of the world, at least of India and Burma.

"The fact was that in November, 1940, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Kalimpong enquired whether we were willing to return to Burma. We gave our reply expressing willingness and adding that the Government should see that our father's (the late King's) private properties held by the Government be returned to us so that we could go and live there.

"The Government are aware that I did not accept and receive pension for more than 20 years, although they have replied in the Legislative Assembly that they are paying the same."

HARIJAN TO RESUME PUBLICATION

A Wardha message states that *Harijan* and allied weeklies are likely to resume publication shortly. It may be recalled the last issue of the *Harijan* was dated November 10, 1940. Explaining irksome circumstances created by the orders promulgated under the Defence of India Rules, Mahatma Gandhi wrote at the time: "... the suspension must, therefore, continue while the gagging lasts."

If the papers are re-started, credit for it is due in no small measure to the work of the Editors' Conference, which has pressed its advice on the Government.

TRIBUTE TO SANSKRIT LITERATURE

"Language and literatures have an imperishable element in them. ... That which is of value in Sanskrit, no social persecution, no petty animosity, no mean malice can destroy," said the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastriar, presiding over the Annual Meeting of the Loyola College Sanskrit Association, held recently.

Mr. Justice K. S. Krishnaswami Iyengar, who delivered the valedictory address, put in a fervent plea for the study of Sanskrit as the language which enshrined the cultural heritage and the spiritual treasures of Hinduism.

JOURNALISTS AND SATYAGRAHA

Mahatma Gandhi, writing in Hindi in reply to a letter from a member of the editorial staff of the *Aj*, a Congress Hindi daily of Benares, advises him as follows:—

"Your fulfilling the responsibilities as an editor has as much virtue (*punya*) as that of going to jail. Only those should go to jail who could be free from essential service and are qualified in other ways."

INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS

The fifth session of the Indian History Congress will be held at Hyderabad (Deccan) on December 21-23, 1941, with Mr. C. S. Srinivasa Chari, Professor of History, Annamalai University, in the chair. This will be the first time that the Session is held in an Indian State.

RAJ TARANGINI

The Government of Kashmir and Jammu propose to bring out a new edition of Sir Auriel Stein's translation of *Raj Tarangini*, last published about 40 years ago.

SIR DADIBA DALAL

The death is reported at the American Hospital, Paris, after a long illness of Sir Dadiba Dalal, the first Indian to be High Commissioner for India.

Sir Dadiba Merwanjee Dalal was High Commissioner for India in U. K. from 1923 to 1924. He was member of the Council of Secretary of State for India in 1921; delegate for India at the International Economic Conference, Geneva, and representative for India at The Hague Conference in 1922. He was also delegate for India at the Imperial Economic Conference in 1923.

Sir Dadiba gave evidence before the Chamberlain Currency Commission in 1918, and was member of the Committee on Indian Exchange and Currency in 1919.

MR. M. A. JINNAH

At one time, says "Saka" of the *Indian Express*, Mr. Jinnah was a great nationalist. "I, sir," he once said in the Assembly, "stand here with a clear conscience and I say that I am a nationalist first, a nationalist second and a nationalist last. I appeal to this House, whether you are a Mussalman or a Hindu, for God's sake do not import the discussion of communal matters into this House, which we desire should become a real National Parliament."

DR. PATTABHI SITARAMAYYA

Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, President of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, was arrested at Masulipatam on March 19 under Rule 26 (1) of the Defence of India Rules at his local residence and sent to Vellore the next morning.

MR. AND MRS. MUNSHI

Mr. K. M. Munshi, ex-Home Minister, Bombay, has been released on grounds of health from Yerawada Central Jail.

Mrs. Munshi has also been released to enable her to be with him.

MR. M. P. GANDHI

Mr. M. P. Gandhi, formerly Secretary of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, has it is learnt, been appointed Assistant Controller of Supplies, Bengal Circle, at Calcutta.

KAMALA NEHRU MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

"This is a mission of mercy and service. This hospital is for the poor mainly. It is neither for Hindus alone nor for Muslims alone. It is for all alike without distinction of caste or creed or community, because disease and death are with us all without any such distinction," said Mahatma Gandhi in his speech, opening the Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital at Allahabad on February 28.

"Our word to collect Rupees five lakhs stands fulfilled to-day as we have been able to collect Rupees five lakhs and ten thousand, but this is not enough. This is a very big hospital and one of the finest in the country. In its maintenance all should help with whatever mite they can. The United Provinces Government has been very generous; the Allahabad Municipality has been very generous. We are also grateful to the various donors for their contributions," he continued.

Mahatma Gandhi said that as soon as control of the hospital has been decentralised, the responsibility of maintaining the hospital would mainly be on the local people.

"This is a sacred moment and all those who have assembled here have taken part in this consecration and have given their blessings. The mission of this hospital will ever be "service to all alike", concluded Mahatma Gandhi.

FREEZING THE PATIENT

The eminent scientists in America believe they have discovered a unique method of fighting certain heart and mental diseases and cancer. They pack the patient with ice like a fish and freeze him to sleep. In about three hours the bodily temperature falls to 89 degrees Fah., and the patient sleeps on, sometimes for so long as five days. During this period all internal functions cease and the digestive organs lie dormant. Outwardly the patient is dead, but his heart continues to beat. After this hibernation, the sleeper is awakened by a dose of strong coffee. The freezing process has many excellent results; for it gives the organs a long rest.

Curiously enough, the healing processes, however, are not retarded and the patient may eventually awake completely cured.

WAR AND NUTRITION

The war has brought nutrition to the limelight and it is now realised that a fighting spirit and resistance to disease are incompatible with an under-nourished population, said Dr. N. G. Baptist in the course of a lecture on "Things We Must Eat," at Colombo.

The activities of the human body were such that they entailed special dietary requirements, which were conveniently divided into the following three groups:—

1. Certain elements and simple inorganic salts, such as iron, sodium chloride or common salt and calcium salts.

2. Organic substances which the body was unable to synthesise and which should be supplied in the diet. The main members of that group were ten essential amino-acids contained in proteins.

3. Organic compounds which were necessary for the smooth working of the animal organism and which were called vitamins.

Dr. Baptist next referred to the biological values of proteins and said that the deficiencies could be made good by including in the diet a variety of foods containing a mixture of proteins. The best proteins from a nutritive point of view were also the most expensive, such as eggs, meat and milk. A varied diet was necessary for all, especially for the young.

PHYSICAL DEFORMITY IN CHILDREN

The mistakes in relation to his own body, which an adult may ignorantly or carelessly make, are colossal but those which are made in relation to children will be criminal, writes a medical man in the *Irish Press*.

From the baby in his cradle to the child in school, physical development needs to be watched and, where necessary, to be corrected. If a child habitually sleeps with toes turned in, or its ears turned out, either may be the beginning of an ugly deformity; but the misplaced feet may lead to trouble which will extend so far as the spine.

The soft leg bones should not be allowed to take the weight of a fat little body (like heavy ornaments) when they are not able to carry for more than a few minutes until they develop strength.

LOAN TO CHINA

Britain has agreed in principle to lend £10,000,000 to China.

Announcing this decision in the House of Commons, Mr. R. A. Butler, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said that an advance of five millions would be made to the Chinese Stabilisation Fund. The remaining five millions would be made available for purchases in any part of the sterling area.

The Chinese Government had been informed of the decision and requested to make arrangements for early negotiation of a preliminary technical agreement on which the possibility of these further credits depended.

Exclaiming the necessity for the sterling area proviso, Mr. Butler said that the British Government had to conserve gold and the United States dollar resources for the essential war needs of the sterling area and hence Britain could not offer to China United States' dollars or sterling which was convertible into dollars.

STERLING DEBT REPAYMENT

The Government of India have taken action to repatriate as far as possible the whole of the terminable Sterling debt. The scheme involves the repayment of the sterling debt in question and its replacement by rupee debt in India, the arrangement being that the Government of India will compulsorily acquire under the Defence of India Rules all stocks of these loans as are held by residents in British India, who will be paid either at rates fixed by the British Government converted into rupees at the rate of 1s. 6d. to the rupee or given the option of taking out rupee counterparts of these loans at par.

In view of this compulsory repatriation of loans, the Government of India have decided, on the analogy of the sale proceeds of dollar balances held by residents in India, that the proceeds of such sterling loans as are converted into rupees should be treated as capital receipts and not as remittances of foreign income for purposes of income-tax and supertax assessment.

WAR ALLOWANCES FOR RAILWAYMEN

The Government of India have decided to grant an increase in pay to certain classes of railway employees. It raises several important issues. The allowances now announced differ from those proposed by the Court of Inquiry. Although not so large in all cases (the Court proposed a flat rate of Rs. 8), they apply to a larger number of employees, including those earning up to Rs. 60 a month. The Court was concerned only with the G. I. P. Railway. The scales now announced apply to all State Railways. But the most important difference is, that the allowances bear no direct relation to the cost of living. They are not dearness allowances but war allowances or war bonus. The basis of the Court's calculations has been discarded. Moreover, the Government confess to a preference for results based on negotiation between the parties over results 'based on analytical methods'.

RAILWAY PURCHASES

It appears from the report of the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1939-40 that the total value of stores purchased during the year by state-managed railways was Rs. 10,26,75,000 and by company-managed railways Rs. 7,40,10,000 and that the value of stores purchased through the Indian Stores Department was Rs. 4,69,82,000 and Rs. 28,68,000, or 45.72 per cent. and 8.87 per cent. respectively. The Stores Purchase Committee, which was appointed in 1920, wrote: "It appears from the evidence tendered to us that, as a whole, they (company-managed railways) fail to encourage or take advantage of indigenous industries as far as desirable." The figures quoted above, observes the *Leader*, show that the company-managed railways are as reluctant to encourage Indian industry as they were 20 years ago.

RECOGNITION OF RAILWAY UNIONS

The representative character of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation was questioned in the Central Assembly.

The Communications Member made it clear that the Government recognised unions which threw open their ranks to all communities and creeds.

INDIAN ART IN LONDON

Despite Blitzkrieg conditions more than a little notice has been attracted to an exhibition, recently held in London, of the work of Mr. J. F. Arora, a young Indian artist. Apart from his high standard of execution, Mr. Arora makes claim for distinction if only because he combines a talent for commercial art with a flair for portrait painting and sketching. In the latter category, his drawings of shelterers in the underground, strike a vivid and topical note.

As a commercial artist, Mr. Arora has already scored considerable success by his advertising illustrations designed with a special appeal to India.

SADHONA BOSE, A BORN DANCER

Sadhona, who has been giving her performances at Nagpur on the Variety Stage, is a born dancer. She took to the art at the age of nine when dancing was regarded with disfavour in social circles. And in her career, she has never stood still. Beginning from amateur recitals in charity and school shows, she moved on to the stage and later to films in progressive achievements under the inspiring influence of her husband, Mr. Madhu Bose. Included in the troupe are: Madhav Menon, Vasant, Bhargavi, Amini, Heera, Jayashankar, Jyotikakana and Gayatri.

THE LIFE OF THE ARTIST

The Life of the Artist, says a writer, is a hard one. "His work is unlike other men's work, which may be done mechanically by vote and almost, as it were, in sleep. It demands from him a constant expense of spirit. He gives continually of his best life and in return he receives much joy, it is true—much fame, it may be—but of material blessings, very few."

INDIAN DANCING

Indian dancing is governed by certain rules which, if not sedulously followed, are likely to mar the whole attempt. Pliant performance of all these technical details gives out what is obviously hidden inside and adds to it a dramatic charm, observes an art critic in the *Hindustan Standard*.

RANJI CRICKET FINAL

High praise for the proficiency in all departments of the game of both the Maharashtra and Madras teams playing in the final of the Ranji Cricket Trophy at Chepauk, and for the sporting spirit of the Madras crowd, was paid by Prince K. S. Duleepsinhji, the Test cricketer in an interview.

Speaking of the Ranji Trophy final in which the Maharashtra came out successful and retained the Cup, Prince Duleepsinhji said: "It has been a very interesting day's play. I am naturally happy to be watching the final of the Ranji Shield for the first time. It is a keen struggle between two very good sides. There was both good bowling and good batting and the crowd was very appreciative and very fair in their applause."

Speaking on the future of Indian cricket, Prince Duleepsinhji said that his advice would be to practise hard and concentrate on the game. If the game received proper encouragement and backing, they should produce as good cricketers as anywhere else in the world.

THE BENGAL GYMKHANA

The Bengal Gymkhana entertained the Maharaja of Patiala at a party at the Great Eastern Hotel, Calcutta. The Maharaja was received by Mr. J. C. Mukherjee, President of the Gymkhana, and later the members of the Gymkhana were introduced to His Highness.

Mr. Mukherjee, while thanking the Maharaja for honouring the Gymkhana by his presence, paid a tribute to the Patiala House for its contribution to sport in India. His Highness, in reply, gave one message to the sportsmen all over India and that was: "Let us have sporting politicians but not political sportsmen."

FOR VISITING SOLDIERS

Plans are now said to be ready to provide sport during the winter months for Empire and foreign troops at present in England. Football, both soccer and rugby and table tennis are among the many games in which English teams will meet representative sides, the proceeds of the matches going to war charities.

TATA EXTENSION PROGRAMME

Mr. J. J. Gandhi, General Manager, Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., delivering his address at the naming ceremony of the Bihar Commercial Museum at the Tata Hall at Patna, narrated briefly the extension of programme of the Tatas owing to war time necessities and said that the Company had already installed two electric furnaces for the manufacture of wheels and tyres, and another plant for the production, not only of ordinary steel but also of acid steel. He revealed that experiments had enabled Tatas to produce bullet-proof armoured plates of special alloy steel for the manufacture of armoured vehicles and also special steels for armour-piercing projectiles and for drawing into telegraph wires. He observed: "This war will be won or lost on the steel front" and gave an assurance that Tatas would not fail in the grim hour of crisis.

TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS

A total of 77 institutions and training centres has been selected for training artisans, said Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar in the Central Assembly in reply to Sir Ziauddin Ahmed.

The suitability of 24 more institutions was under consideration and about 40 institutions and other known potential training centres had yet to be inspected. This list was not exhaustive and was being added to from day to day. Training classes had already started at 82 centres and a further 45 would shortly be ready to receive trainees. The total number receiving training in the different centres was 2,682. It was hoped that trainees would begin to pass out in appreciable numbers within the next six or seven months.

AMERICAN HONOUR TO SIR C. V. RAMAN

It is understood that Sir C. V. Raman has been invited by the Franklin Institute to go to Philadelphia, U. S. A., on the 21st May to receive the medal awarded to him and also to deliver a lecture about his work. The Governing Council of the Indian Institute of Science at its last meeting decided to send him on a deputation to America in response to this invitation as also to enable him to visit important research centres in the United States.

WAR FILMS

"India Arms for Victory", a short film recording the work being done in Indian factories in the production of war material, will shortly be released for exhibition in India by the Film Advisory Board appointed by the Government of India in July last. For the purpose of this film, a film shooting unit accompanied the Roger Mission on a tour of industrial India.

Another film which is also ready for release, is an amusing comedy entitled "Whispering Legions", which shows the birth and growth of a rumour and the dangers of careless and alarmist talk. Yet a third, a film of the Indian troops in the Western Desert, is nearing completion in Cairo and is expected to be of exceptional interest in view of the recent British victories in which Indian troops played so gallant a part.

HELP FOR PRODUCERS

In Bombay, on representation from the film industry, the Government has made provision for minimising the worries of producers resulting from censorship objections.

The producers, if they so desire, can now submit scenarios of films to the Bombay Board of Film Censors for their prior approval before shooting is commenced.

A set of rules have been framed in respect of such voluntary submissions. One of these is that "nothing in these rules will be deemed to commit the Board to any undertaking, that it will in due course grant a certificate for the public exhibition of the film".

In Madras, too, a similar move was made, but the powers that be, gave it a cold shoulder.

HOLLYWOOD AWARDS

The Academy of Motion Picture, Art and Sciences has picked "Rebecca" as the best picture of the year.

John Ford was voted the best Director for "The Grapes of Wrath".

Ginger Rogers won the award for the best actress for the part of Kitty Foyle, and the men's award went to James Stewart for his acting in "Philadelphia Story".

MOTORISTS AND THE BUDGET

Motorists throughout India usually take a great interest in the Budget, which is presented to the Central Assembly; for there is generally something in it which affects them. There was a good deal of speculation as to what part motorists would have to play in making good a fairly substantial deficit, which was anticipated as a result of India's war effort. And, of course, motorists were hit to a certain extent, says the official organ of the Automobile Association of Southern India.

"Another 10 per cent. has been added to the cost of tyres and tubes and this the Finance Member of the Government of India anticipates will realise a sum of Rs. 85 lakhs. This is probably better than most motorists expected and it is not an item that should weigh unduly heavily on them; for tyre renewals are not things that are undertaken with any great frequency. It is decidedly better than the two annas which was added to the cost of petrol in the last budget."

EXCISE DUTY ON TYRES

In connexion with the proposed Excise Duty of 10 per cent. on pneumatic tyres and tubes manufactured in India, a bill in connexion with which is before the Central Legislature, it is learnt that the tyre manufacturing industry in India is making representations to Government, drawing attention to the effect of such a duty on the industry at this time.

It is pointed out that unless a countervailing duty is, at the same time, placed on imported tyres, the position of the industry *vis-a-vis* the importer is bound to be weakened. It is further pointed out that Government are proposing to take this action at a time when the industry is being pressed for increased production and for extensive development in connexion with the country's war effort, which must be affected if this tax on the Indian industry goes through without a countervailing tax on the imported tyre.

It is further pointed out by the industry that India is the only Tyre manufacturing country in the world, whose own market is unprotected.

INDIA'S AIR FORCE

As in other branches of India's fighting forces, the rate of expansion of the Air Force—and as a necessary corollary, of facilities for training pilots, observers and ground staff—has been remarkably rapid. From a single squadron at the commencement of the war, the strength has been raised to three, besides five coastal defence flights of the Indian Air Force Volunteer Reserve and a contingent of the Royal Air Force. The I. A. F. is entirely Indian and the coastal defence flights predominantly so, about two-thirds of the pilots and observers being Indian.

The service flying training school at Ambala, reorganised for an intermediate and an advanced course in flying (each of three months' duration) to cadets who have already been through an elementary course at Lahore, is intended to turn out pilots and observers capable of being absorbed direct into operational units wherever called upon to do so.

The authorities in charge of the school, says a Press report, seem to be singularly free from the prejudices, which long tradition sometimes tends to foster. As in the Air Force proper, these "air-men" (as the Ground staff is called) are recruited from all provinces and communities. There are no communal kitchens, the food being either vegetarian or non-vegetarian according to the pupil's way of living. No other distinction is observed.

During the six months airmen are at the School, they receive in addition to their technical training instructions in the various ancillary duties, which they are called upon to do as airmen. These include foot drill, arms drill, anti-gas drill, guard duties and general service knowledge and customs.

BARODA-KATHIAWAR AIR LINK

In order to link Baroda to Kathiawar by air, a subsidy has been granted to the Air Services of India, Limited, for a period of five years. The Company has undertaken to run a bi-weekly service from Baroda to Bhavnagar joining up there for Bombay to Okha and vice versa. A feeder line is also to be run from there to Amreli.

THE ROGER MISSION

"I do not think I am being indiscreet when I say that in India alone, we have recommended factory expansion on a large scale," said Sir Alexander Roger, Chairman of the British Supply Mission, in an interview to the *Times of India*.

Sir Alexander added: "It is perfectly true that these factories are destined for war work purely, but it should be remembered that they will be equipped with modern machinery, which will be suitable for many kinds of peace work and will add very materially to the industrial capacity of India."

Referring to the activities of the members of the Mission, Sir Alexander said that they had visited over 700 factories and held over 500 conferences, and within the past few weeks they had compressed the results of their survey. "We have surveyed and reported upon fully every phase of the possibilities of munitions production in this country."

IRON ORE IN CEYLON

We read that discoveries have been made in Ceylon of fairly large surface deposits of iron ore which, in some places, has a metal content as high as 55 per cent. It is estimated that there are two million tons available from places already discovered. But we have no information about the steps being taken or under consideration for the development of an iron and steel industry in the colony. More than 100 tin mines have been opened in the Federated Malay States, 50 in Perak alone, and 17,000 additional labourers have found employment.

A NEW CHARKHA

A new charkha invented by the All-India Charkha Sangh was demonstrated before Mahatma Gandhi and Doctor Rajendra Prasad. This charkha, which gives two threads simultaneously, is capable of producing 2,000 yards of yarn per hour.

INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY BOARD FOR SIND

To explore the prospects of industrial development in the Province, the Government of Sind have appointed an Industrial Advisory Board for a period of three years.

TUBE-WELL IRRIGATION IN BIHAR

The immediate sinking of 20 more tube-wells in South Shahabad to supplement the irrigation water now being provided by the tube-wells already working near Dehri-on-Sone, is understood to have been recommended by the Lift Irrigation Department to the Provincial Government.

The recommendation, it is further understood, has been made as a result of the popularity of tube-well irrigation among the cultivators of South Shahabad, where it was introduced as an experimental measure and in response to the representations reported to have been made by the cultivators for its extension.

The new tube-wells would be similar to those already in operation, capable of supplying about 20 gallons of water per hour and of irrigating one acre in two hours. The existing 12 tube-wells have, during the last six months, irrigated about 12,000 acres. When the new wells are sunk, the total irrigated area would be above 80,000 acres.

The total number of tube-wells required for irrigating the dry part of Shahabad is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 800.

KISAN CONFERENCE

The zemindary system was responsible for the poverty and indebtedness of kisans (peasant and cultivators); the system should be abolished for the good of the country as a whole, declared Mr. Jamuna Karjee, M.L.A., presiding at the eighth session of the Bihar Kisan Conference at Dumraon in Shahabad district.

Mr. Karjee claimed that the kisan movement in India had come to stay. It was necessary that the kisans should have an organisation of their own distinct from the Congress, which was a multi-class organisation. They could appreciate independence only in terms of economic freedom.

INDIAN METHODS OF FARMING

Mr. E. Rodrigo, Acting Director of Agriculture, Ceylon, in a speech at Anuradhapura recommended Indian methods of farming to Ceylon ryots. By that method, he said, he was able to cultivate 80 acres by himself.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

The Textile Labour Association has requested the Millowners' Association to revise the rates of the dearness allowance fixed by the Industrial Court, in view of the extraordinary improvement in the condition of the textile industry. The Labour Association also desires that the Millowners' Association would come to an agreement with it in view of the changed condition of the industry instead of again approaching the Industrial Court.

The Textile Labour Association has also demanded revision of the standardisation of wages of weavers fixed in March 1938, and introduction of standardisation of wages in these departments where it is not existing at present.

EMPLOYERS AND LABOUR

Important questions affecting employers and labour were discussed by Mr. H. S. Town, Chairman of the Employers' Association of Southern India, at the annual meeting of the Association on March 21. He referred to discussions that had taken place on the question of a dearness allowance based on the cost of living index and at the Federation's decision to leave it to the judgment of individual employers and their capacity to pay such an allowance.

He discussed the proposed labour legislation, particularly that referring to the appointment of Courts of Inquiry and the settlement of labour disputes and urged the establishment of sound Trade Unions. He also spoke of sickness insurance and criticised the indiscriminate granting of medical certificates to workers.

THE WAR AND LABOUR

His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras, declaring open the Madura Mills Workers' housing scheme at Harvey-patti on March 10, observed:

"Goodwill, peace and quiet in industry are very important in war time when all classes should pull together, both capital and labour, employers and employees. And right through the war, as in peace time, schemes like this will always help humanity."

COOCH BEHAR PRISONERS IN INDIA

The Associated Press learns that the Government of India have so far agreed to accommodate 44,000 Italian prisoners of war in this country.

There are now approximately 80,000 Italian prisoners in India, who are confined in the Ramgarh camp, which has a capacity of 12,000 and the Bangalore camp which has a capacity of 24,000. Preparations are now being made to establish a third prisoners of war camp at Bhopal, which will have a capacity of 9,000.

It is pointed out that the question of increasing the number of camps in India, or extending the capacity of the existing camps, is susceptible to revision as the situation develops, but that the cost of establishing and maintaining them, as well as the maintenance of the prisoners themselves, is borne by His Majesty's Government.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT STAFF

It is learnt that, due to the war, a substantial expansion of staff working under the Government of India has taken place on the civil as well as military side.

The increase has been from 454 officers, and 8,789 clerks in 1938-39 to 652 officers and 5,147 clerks in 1939-40, and finally to 827 officers and 6,898 clerks at present.

This expansion has resulted in heavy demands for additional office and residential accommodation. Government propose to spend Rs. 8 lakhs to provide temporary accommodation.

GANDHIJI'S POLICY

The declaration that he does not wish well to India at the expense of Britain, in the same way as he does not wish well to Britain at the expense of Germany, is made by Mahatma Gandhi in the course of a letter to the *Times of India*, replying to certain criticisms the paper had made against Mahatma Gandhi's policy of non-violence. He reiterates his faith in non-violence and reaffirms its efficacy in meeting even Hitler's violence, if properly applied.

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Repatriation of India's Sterling Debts

By MR. K. J. CLEETUS

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THE financial operations announced simultaneously by His Majesty's Government and the Government of India involving the repatriation of India's sterling loans of the face value of nearly £90 million is an event of great importance. Before we proceed to examine these operations, it is necessary to remove the misapprehensions that appear to exist in certain quarters regarding the exact nature and implications of this transaction. These operations have been described by some people as Debt Redemption. Debt Repatriation would be more correct. They will not have the effect of redeeming or reducing India's total debts. All that has been done is to repatriate a part of it—to substitute part of India's sterling liabilities to non-residents into rupee liabilities to residents in India. But there is no reduction in the total money owed. As a matter of fact these operations are in the nature of repatriation and conversion. Not only are our foreign obligations in sterling being turned into internal debts in rupees, but they are also being converted from higher to lower-priced stock. As against 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. sterling stock, the Government propose issuing rupee securities in India at 8 per cent.

India's efforts at the repatriation of her debts have a history. This question has been engaging the attention of the Government for the last three years, although the enthusiasm they displayed was not very striking. A beginning was made in 1937; but it had to be temporarily discontinued. Some time later the Reserve Bank was authorized to resume purchase of India's non-terminable sterling securities in the open market. These were subsequently cancelled and in their place fresh rupee paper was issued in India. Later on, a further method of repatriation was adopted, by which holders of sterling loans were given the option to transfer their holdings into rupee loans. These operations, unfortunately, never had the appearance of a whole-hearted national financial policy and the results were exceedingly disappointing. Up to the end of the financial year 1939-40, the total amount of sterling securities so repatriated did not exceed £9 million. Subsequent figures will be available to us only in the next budget.

The general feeling in the country about the present efforts of the Government to repatriate our foreign obligations is one of approval and gratification. We are afraid, however, that neither Britain

nor the Government of India can take much credit for it in view of the circumstances. From all indications it would appear as if repatriation was forced upon the authorities. Although these transactions have the effect of repatriating India's sterling securities, they are really a method whereby Britain is paying India for her immense purchases of War materials. In normal times there are several methods open to a country for the payment of purchases from other countries; but under the existing conditions most of them are unavailable to Britain. You cannot expect her to pay India in gold. All her gold is practically mortgaged to the United States. She could pay India in silver purchased from America as she did immediately after the last war, but it would have raised a storm of protest in India. She dare not perpetrate the silver hoax a second time on India. Besides it would have looked rather odd to saddle India with more silver, while all these years she has been relieving herself of surplus stock of silver. There is still the alternative of a loan open to Britain, but it is exceedingly unlikely that she will yet ask India to lend her money. Therefore, it would seem that making payment by handing over these securities to India was, perhaps, the only method open to her. This method has also the additional advantage of releasing a large sum of money for investment in British loans for the financing of the War. Without in any way belittling the significance or the importance of the repatriation of our sterling obligations, we must say that Britain was merely making payment to India for her war purchases by the only straight method open to her at present.

We will now inquire into how the Government of India came to acquire such large sterling balances. After the outbreak of the War, India's balance of trade began to improve, not so much on account of any spectacular increase in the *volume* of India's exports (in fact all evidence points to an actual shrinkage in the volume of trade) as in the steep rise in the *value* of some items and in consequence of the drastic reduction in imports. With the repayment of sterling debts, which the Government had been effecting for some time past, their sterling requirements have also been diminishing year by year. The special circumstances created by the War led to a further reduction in the amount of sterling required. The Government of India have been making immense purchases in India on behalf of His Majesty's Government and making payment for them. The British Government paid an equivalent amount of sterling into the Government of India's accounts in London. There are also sterling receipts on account of recoveries from British Government for their share of War expenditure incurred by India, as well as for their contribution towards the expenditure on defence modernisation in accordance with the Chatfield Committee's Report. Sales of India's surplus silver through London have also added to India's sterling balances. All these transactions resulted in a considerable reduction in the net sterling requirements of the Government of India from an average of £88 million in previous years to about £10½ million in the current year.

India's favourable balance in the meanwhile was accumulating in London. The following purchases of sterling

by the Reserve Bank of India illustrate it :—

1937-38	..	£ 25.1 million
1938-39	..	£ 25.5 million
1939-40	..	£ 72.6 million
April 1940 to December 1940	..	£ 41.7 million

Most of these balances were lying invested in British treasury bills. Simultaneously the Balances Held Abroad in the Banking Department of the Reserve Bank have grown from about £12 million in January, 1940, to £54.4 million in December, 1940. It is these huge acquisitions of sterling that have enabled the Reserve Bank to put considerable amounts at the disposal of the Government of India for the repatriation of sterling debts.

The scheme has certain decided advantages for Britain; in fact, the theory that it is these advantages that prompted our Government to embark upon this scheme of repatriation is widely held in India. The Reserve Bank's immense holdings in British Treasury Bills had all the weaknesses and dangers of "refugee funds" and it is not altogether unfair to assume that the British Government's anxiety to convert these short-term obligations to long-term loans was a factor that exerted probably a decisive influence upon the Government of India's policy.

In the *communiqué* issued by the authorities, both here and in England, there is a vague suggestion of generosity on the part of Britain and the British investors. We are certainly glad to have the opportunity of repatriating a part of our sterling debts. The British Government should be even more grateful for the important part these Indian funds have played in the money market in London. The prices of these securities have been worked up to high levels by the Reserve

Bank's purchases in the open market. And if the securities are of the high-priced variety, their redemption price is, perhaps, even higher—high enough at any rate to satisfy the calculating conscience of even the British investor. The generosity of a debtor—the Government of India—that works up the price of a debt that he intends to redeem, is entitled to some recognition from Britain, although the Indian taxpayer may have different feelings on the subject.

The most important aspect of these operations still remains to be examined. What are their effects? The most obvious effect is the saving in interest charges. Four out of the six loans earmarked for payment carry a very high rate of interest, i.e., 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. They will now be converted into rupee securities at 8 per cent. Sterling funds that have hitherto earned a low rate of interest in the short-term market are being utilised to redeem long-term debts carrying a higher rate. India will hereafter be paying approximately £1½ million less by way of interest on her public debt.

These transactions will also have the effect of curtailing the sterling remittance programme and to that extent free the Government of India from a source of considerable financial embarrassment. India's foreign obligations have always been a sinister influence, not only upon the Government of India's financial policy but, not infrequently, also upon her currency and exchange. Reduction in the volume of these obligations, it is hoped, will also diminish the intensity of this influence, which India has always viewed with deep distrust.

The repatriation of India's sterling debts will, to some extent, also loosen the

irksome financial ties that hold India bound to Britain. It is a small step, perhaps, that has been taken; but it is a very important and significant step in the direction of India's financial and economic independence. In the last war we had a similar opportunity like the United States, but we squandered it. Instead of buying back our sterling debts, our Government and their advisers bought useless silver at absurd prices. On the other hand, the United States bought back her obligations, wiped out a big slice of her foreign debts and became England's creditor. This time the process is being continued and completed. Britain has delivered to the United States nearly all her investments in North America and probably also in South America. Even these colossal sums will not be sufficient to pay for the gigantic British purchases from America. Britain will shortly begin to borrow directly from the United States. A similar opportunity is presented in this country also if we would only utilise it to regain economic independence. India should be vigilant and see that this great opportunity is not frittered away.

Within India, these transactions will result in the development of a bigger gilt-edged market, will increase the activity in our money market and enlarge opportunities for investment. The sale of the new rupee securities in place of the repatriated sterling loans would involve immediately some contraction of currency. But after they are issued, these new securities will themselves become the basis of an extended credit structure. In the long run, they may also produce some inflationary effect, which it will be necessary to watch closely and keep under control.

The Government of India have taken a great step in the right direction, but their efforts should not slacken nor should their aim be deflected. The policy of repatriation of our entire foreign obligations, as far as possible, should be a prominent feature of India's war time financial policy. The remaining sterling debts of the Government of India are fairly low-priced and are mostly of the non-terminable variety. This is not the most opportune time to buy them back in the open market. Their prices have been unduly inflated in the expectation of being bought up. For the present they may be left alone. Instead, our attention should be devoted to the repatriation of our commercial obligations—British investments in sterling and rupee companies operating in India. The strangle-hold of some of these concerns, and the pressure they exert upon India, are well known. From the point of view of India's economic independence, the repatriation of these commercial debts is, in some ways, even more important. The Government of India should immediately list up these securities in the order of preference in which India would like to have them repatriated.

India's financial dependence upon Britain, and her immense sterling debts, have been the cause of an unnecessary amount of irritation and misunderstanding between the two countries. Let us hope that the liquidation of these obligations will slowly help to replace the unpleasant relationship between debtor and creditor by happier and more enduring ties. If the repatriation of these loans will help to re-establish friendly relationship between the two countries, Britain will not have surrendered these securities in vain.

Russian Foreign Policy in the West

BY PROF. JAYANT P. SHAH, B.A. (HONS.), (OXON), (BOMBAY)

WE would have expected that with the end of the Ozarist regime, Russia would have followed the practice of open diplomacy. Unfortunately that is not the case and the trends of recent events amply prove it. I am making an effort below, to state the popular interpretation first and then to show that complete antithesis of the same would bring us nearer the correct interpretation.

The popular conception of the Russian Foreign Policy can be summed up as follows :—

1. That Russia sincerely believed in the institution of the League of Nations and that it adhered to its policy from 1918 to 1937.

2. When the Western Powers, however, did not help Czechoslovakia at the time of the Sudetan Crisis, it lost its faith and entered into a non-Aggression Pact with Germany.

3. That Hitler took the initiative and induced Stalin to make this Pact.

4. That the visit of M. Molotov was undertaken to further develop the friendship established by this Pact.

5. That the Russo-German Pact signed the other day is beneficial to Germany.

I will now make an effort by taking each one of these points in turn, to show that just the opposite is the case.

1. I will not deal with this point in details as it belongs to the pre-War period. In all fairness I am sure it will be admitted by all, that opinions were divided as to the real part Russia was playing in the League.

2. It is true that Russia was completely ignored at the time of the Sudetan Crisis. But are we seriously to believe that just to change the centre of diplomatic activity from London to Moscow that Stalin entered into this Pact? That this cannot be the case will be seen from my answer to the next point.

3. I maintain that it was Stalin who not only took the initiative but was largely responsible in bringing about this Pact. I believe that Stalin must have got the idea of making this Pact on the

very day he read his copy of the *Mein Kampf*. Hitler had clearly stated in it his firm intention of incorporating Ukraine within the German Reich. It was essential for Stalin to check Hitler.

The obvious solution for Stalin was to fight out the issue with Hitler when the time came. However, his army is no match for the Germans. He, therefore, resorted to propaganda to make the world believe that his was the invincible army. It is incredible how seriously we took this bluff and how lightly it was taken by its neighbours. When I was in Finland, I was assured that we had exaggerated notion of the Russian strength and the Finns have shown that they were right.

After this bluff, something concrete had to be done. He decided to make his move with reference to Germany. He adopted a double dealing plan. The German nation was poor and anything which was said in favour of the proletariats would appeal to it. Taking advantage of this, he successfully carried out his fifth column activity. It is a well known fact that in Germany, the army not only takes interest in politics but sometimes even interferes and attempts to seize the political power. Relying on this, Stalin succeeded in winning some army chiefs to his side. He then betrayed them to gain his own aim. It is Stalin who gave the name of these army officers to Hitler, who, in his blood purge in 1936, disposed them off. Thereby, Stalin gained Hitler's favour.

At the same time his propaganda with the masses had achieved astonishing results. I can say boldly that had they not met with reverses, they would have made a determined effort to throw off the Nazi yoke in 1937. I may be permitted to mention my own experience. At no time did my trip to Germany gave me such a true picture of that country as it did in 1936. Some personal work had necessitated my going to a certain town in Germany. I expected my money to come from England at a particular time, but due to my friend having gone out of London, it did not come for a week and I was stranded. I was staying in a first class hotel, but as it is the

custom with majority of hotels in Germany, we had to pay in cash at the dinner table. So though I was staying in a first class hotel, I had no money left for my food. I went every day to the post office and on the second day I frankly told the man at the counter that my money must have come and that if they have not, they should immediately make proper investigations as I am stranded and have no money to buy even my food. He promised to send me my money as soon as it came.

However when I was walking in the street, all depressed and not knowing what to do, suddenly some one tapped me at my back and to my surprise I found that he was the very person I had talked with at the post office. He sympathised with me and invited me to his house for dinner. Our conversation slowly developed and against his wife's desire at first, he intimated to me that he was not a believer in Hitler and that he was a communist. He told me that there was a meeting of the communists and he invited me to accompany him. At first I hesitated but he told me that there was nothing to be afraid of. He explained to me that along with the ordinary post they distributed letters to the members giving place and time of the meetings. I agreed. It was to my surprise a meeting, not only of the communists but of the democrats as well. My friend explained to me that both the communists and the democrats were united together in throwing off the Nazi yoke. With the introduction I got from him, I visited not less than seven cities in Germany and found the same underground activity.

Hitler had, therefore, no alternative. Either he had to admit friendship with Stalin or to face the revolution at home. Hitler, having seen this activity and the attitude of his army chiefs, acted and acted very quickly. He first of all did away with his army chiefs. His second move was to compromise with those who wanted the Russian alliance. The old veteran General Ludendorff had advocated this alliance in almost all his books. Hitler had fallen out with him, but now he went to him and compromised with him.

Having thus been successful in winning over Hitler by offering his own army chiefs for slaughter, Stalin now began to fortify his position. Taking advantage both of his friendship and specially of the situation, he soon engulfed half of Poland, the three Baltic States and the eastern portion of Rumania.

He had now only to see that Hitler was kept engaged in the West and that he was engaged there till he was completely overpowered by his enemies in the West. Stalin knows, as any one would, that if England is defeated he would be the next victim. He must, therefore, be one who is most desirous of British victory. He would not, therefore, have helped Germany with food-stuffs and raw materials by entering into a pact of the type of which he entered the other day, had he thought that there was any chance for Germany to win. This must, therefore, have been the view of Molotov, specially after his experience of the British air raid on the very day he entered Berlin. By the signing of this Pact, therefore, Stalin has accomplished two things. First of all he is feeding the common enemy both of ours and of Russia, who is rendered weak by our blows so that he may survive and be completely knocked out, not by him but by us. Secondly, he is trying to get the best possible terms for his surplus raw materials by getting machinery, which would help him in industrialising his country and also in defending it.

We must, therefore, admit that Hitler is under the powerful thumb of Stalin. He has outwitted all his contemporary dictators. But his is an opportunist politics. It is fraught with grave dangers. To us the Russo-German Pact remains as one of the darkest chapters in the history of diplomacy. With the end of the Great War came the era of open diplomacy, the institution of the League of Nations and the firm establishment of certain principles of rule of law in our international relations. All these noble things have disappeared, and in their stead base and revolting diplomatic practices of the Middle Ages have been introduced, disgracing the very profession of diplomacy.

DEMOCRACY AND LEGISLATION

By Mr. S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR

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THE new democracy in India will not be a success in every branch of its activities if it fully avails itself of the special knowledge, skill and experience of experts. And this is doubly true when it engages itself in the task of legislation which is its most frequent and important function. There was a distinct tendency when the Congress Party came into office for its leaders to assume that their overwhelming success at the polls had endowed them with something like omniscience. In the old days the lawyer members of the legislature would pay very close attention to the Bills that came up for consideration, even though their provisions were dry and raised no point of political interest. And those who were not lawyers in the legislature were willing to listen to the advice of legal experts in regard to both the form and, to a large extent, the substance of the clauses of the Bill, though on questions of policy they rightly took independent views; for a member had to persuade his fellow-members by reasoning and by appeals to expert opinion. When the new democracy came into power, it was only a question of obtaining the votes of the majority party; no great trouble had to be taken in the preparation of a case to support or attack a clause in a particular Bill. In accordance with our immemorial tradition, if an opponent who wished to criticise the Bill knew from the beginning that his criticisms and suggestions would fall on deaf ears, he started with a compromise and ended by a surrender. It was inevitable that the legal experts of the Government would not have the same decisive influence in

the new legislatures as their predecessors had. Broadly speaking in these days, you have only to draft a Bill and bespeak the support of other members who are indifferent to it, but being party men they have to support it; others accept it for fear that they would become unpopular if they did not support what the majority party sponsored. Many of them have, perhaps, not the knowledge or the training to undertake a careful study of the measure. The result is seen in the tendency of recent legislation to be slipshod, obscure, and defective. And any changes in the law made by a Bill do not always harmonise with the rest of the law on the subject. Nowhere are these features likely to cause more disastrous results than in the field of Hindu Law Reform, unless the lawyer members in each legislature take special pains to shape legislation carefully and satisfactorily.

But it has, during the last decade or so, been a most surprising experience that when able and successful lawyers enter politics or when they become prominent members of the Congress or other party in the Central Assembly or in the Provincial legislatures, they do not appear to pay sufficient expert and close attention to Bills seeking to amend rules of Hindu Law or the provisions of some enactment or initiating reforms either in administration or by way of relief to agriculture and industries and such like. When such Bills are introduced by Government, there may be a presumption that they have previously undergone some legal scrutiny. But when a private member, as is often the case, introduces a Bill in a legislature, there can be no presumption that it has received any careful professional preliminary examination. The reasons for this are obvious. Able lawyers are not in a political party in the legislature as professional lawyers,

but they are there only as politicians. All the learning, skill, and lynx-eyed vigilance, which are called into play by a brief and a fee and are usually exercised in the pursuit of their profession, are apparently not available in the consideration of any legislative measure which does not raise a first class political issue. There are no expert lawyers on the other side to watch and pounce upon one's errors due to carelessness or to insufficient preparation. And, of course, there is no judge to supervise the contest. There is no junior to do the prompting or to smile in his sleeve; and the audience is a very mixed one; in a word a legal tourney in respect of a Bill does not pay. The lawyer politician along with his lay colleagues is more concerned with making political speeches and retorts and in planning, watching and countering political manoeuvres rather than in scrutinising legislative measures whether introduced by the Government or by unofficial members. Only a direct political interest will rouse his attention and compel him to scan closely the provisions of any measure and even when he does so, he is more concerned with its purpose or limitations rather than with its detail and language. Some of the ill-drawn enactments of Provincial and Central legislatures are due to this feature. The Hindu Women's Rights to Property Act, 1937, demands special mention as it had to be amended within a year of its enactment and is again sought to be amended to remedy an injustice which was overlooked at the time though it should have been quite clear. The Madras Agriculturists' Relief Act, putting aside the changes in the law it made and the doubts as to its validity both of which were unavoidable, has needlessly given rise to a plentiful crop of litigation owing to its imperfect wording as well as to the lacunae in it.

The level of ability and knowledge of most of the members in the new legislature will naturally be far below the average standard required for an efficient and capable legislature. As things stand, no qualifications like those required for any of the professions are required for the discharge of the very high duties of a

legislator or a sharer in the government of the country. This is one of the capital defects of the existing system of representation. No reform of it is at all likely for the present.

Therefore, it is necessary that a legislature should be assisted by a small body of legal experts so as to enable it to consider and pass enactments, sound in substance and workmanlike in form. Attached to each legislature, there may be a special advisory committee consisting of five legal experts who need not be members of the legislature, to whom the Select Committee must send the Bills as revised by them for expert advice both as to their wording and arrangement. Suggestions to fill any gaps or to make the measure more workable as well as to make it fit in neatly with the rest of the law on the subject should be made by the Advisory Committee. The Select Committee should consider the suggestions and finally make their own report to the legislature. Should there be further amendments made by the Assembly or Council, they should be sent to the Advisory Committee for report before the Bill is finally passed.

Another reform that is required, is as to the form in which legislative enactments should be cast. The present method of stating the law by way of procrustean formulæ or generalizations must be replaced by a narrative style of draftsmanship. The proposition of law should be easily and naturally stated instead of being compressed and tortured into obscure and unhappy formulæ. The draftsman cannot exhaust all possible contingencies and some are necessarily overlooked. Lucidity and certainty are now sacrificed to a desire for an aphoristic artistry which is seldom attained. In this matter, English legislation is to-day somewhat ahead of Indian legislation, which still adheres to the older form with its ambiguities. A simple narrative style of draftsmanship intermediate between the present form and the abridged treatise method adopted in Halsbury will not only be more easily understood and applied but will enable subsequent amendments to be readily fitted in.

MANIPULATION OF CENSUS

By MR. JATINDRA MOHAN DATTA

THE Census statistics are the common tools and materials of business of the Government,' says the Encyclopædia Britannica. If they are to fulfil their above function they must be correct. But unfortunately our census statistics are not only inaccurate, but they are often manipulated for political purpose. We shall give an example or two.

A table showing the total number of the Europeans and of the Anglo-Indians in 1931 was circulated immediately after the last Census amongst the delegates to the Round Table Conference by the Secretariat-General, St. James' Palace, London. The number of the Europeans was shown as 223,000; and that of the Anglo-Indians as 144,000. It was then the policy of the British Government to give greater weightage to the European representation in the several legislatures; hence their number was inflated. Sir Henry Gidney very pointedly drew attention to it before the Lothian Committee. The Europeans were decreasing since 1911; and the Anglo-Indians increasing; but suddenly in 1931, the Europeans increased by some 28 per cent. Their respective numbers were:—

	EUROPEANS	ANGLO-INDIANS
1911 ...	197,639	100,420
1921 ...	174,057	113,012
1931 ...	223,000	142,000

A few months afterwards an Abstract of Tables giving the main statistics of the Census of the Indian Empire of 1931 was published by the Government. In it the number of the Europeans was shown as 168,184 (117,886 males and 67,798 females); and that of the Anglo-Indians as 188,895 (71,247 males, and 67,148 females). The number of the

Europeans came down from 223,000 to 168,000—a decrease of over 25 per cent. It was less than even what it was in 1921. By that time the object has been achieved.

The Halalkhors of Bengal were Muhammadans in 1901. Sir Edward Gait, in the Bengal Census Report of 1901 describing the Muhammadan castes and tribes, says:—

In some places a third class, called *Arzal*, or 'lowest of all' is added. It consists of the very lowest castes, such as the Halalkhors, Laibegi, Abdal and Bediya, with whom no other Muhammadan would associate, and who are forbidden to enter the mosque or to use the public burial ground (*italics ours*).

In the 1931 Census Report, they are shown as Depressed Hindus. They are the Muhammadan untouchables; and their position is worse than that of the Hindu *Panchamas*, for they are not even allowed to be buried in the public burial ground. The object of the misrepresentation is to show that the Muhammadans have no untouchables amongst them. As a result of such misrepresentation the Halalkhors have been included in the list of the Scheduled Castes under the new Government of India Act, 1935.

That there are inaccuracies, serious inaccuracies such as the interchange of the number of the Hindus and the Muhammadans in some places, in the Bengal Census Report of 1931 have been pointed out in the pages of the *Sankhya*—the Journal of the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, as early as September 1937. When the Indian Census Bill was being debated on the floors of the Indian Legislative Assembly at Delhi, Dr. Pramatha Nath Banerjee, M.L.A. (Central), formerly the Minto Professor of Economics in the University of

Calcutta, referred to these inaccuracies and challenged the Government to answer them. No answer was given then; and no attempt has since then been made by the Government to justify the Census Report of 1931. One example will convince the reader that there have been exaggerations even in the number of persons. The number of Muhammadan males aged 20-25 was 9,67,000 in 1921. Ten years later, they would be in the age-category of 30-35; and the number of such men was found to be 11,47,000 in 1931 by the census authorities. Even if we assume that there have been no deaths among these 9,67,000 men during the decade 1921-1931—a very big assumption, how can they swell into 11,47,000—an increase of about 19 per cent! Immigration cannot be the cause, for even according to the Census Report itself immigration is decreasing in Bengal during the last twenty years.

Bengal is not singular in this respect. In Madras as well as in the Punjab the proportion of the Hindus has gone down at the last census. Two or three years later the Government of India invited two eminent statisticians, Dr. A. L. Bowley and D. H. Robertson to advise them on various statistical enquiries. They held sample census in Madras and in the Punjab. The results are shown below:—

	Per 1,000 persons			
	Madras		Punjab	
	Sample Census	Sample Census	Sample Census	Sample Census
Hindus	925	900	165	119
Sikhs			309	372
Muslims			410	456
Christians			17	14

It may be urged that the population has increased in the interval between the Census and the Sample census; hence

the change noticed. But the change is not in absolute numbers, but in the relative proportion, which fluctuates very little over such short periods. Further the change noticed, 2·5 per cent. in Madras and 4·6 per cent. in the Punjab in the case of the Hindus is too great to be explained away as due to usual errors of observation or enumeration. It will be further noticed that every community has relatively increased in the Punjab, excepting the Muhammadans. May we not legitimately infer that at the time of the last Census, the number of the Muhammadans was exaggerated?

According to the Census of 1931, there are 44 Hindus to 55 Muhammadans in Bengal. But thanks to the Communal Award, for 80 Hindu Legislators there are 120 Muhammadans in the local Assembly. This cannot be justified under any circumstances. To justify the communal representation, or *mis*-representation in the Legislature, the Muhammadans must be 60 per cent. of the population. And already the Muhammadan Press in Bengal, headed by the Chief Minister, Mr. Fazl-ul-Huq, is claiming that the Muhammadans will be 60 per cent. at the coming Census. All attempts of the Hindu Mahasabha to have joint enumerators—one Hindu and one Muhammadan to secure accuracy of enumeration—have failed. The Minister in charge was forced to admit the justice of the claim on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, but nothing has been done. Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal charged the Government for having drafted to census work officers "who have in their own administrative line given evidence of communal bias" instead

of men well-versed in economics and statistics; and the Government spokesmen could not deny it. Instead of the Officers-in-charge of the Police Stations being made the Census Charge Superintendents as was done in previous censuses, presidents of the Union Boards—local village self-governing units—have been made charge superintendents this year. And two-thirds of them are Muhammadans. Although the Government of India did not so require, the Bengal Government, or rather the communally-minded Ministry is out to record the castes among the Hindus, but not among the Muhammadans. The number of castes recorded in 1921 was 102; it increased to 144 in 1931 (including 2 male Kichaks); and it is feared many more will be found or manufactured this time, to show that

the Hindus are hopelessly divided amongst themselves.

Rumours have been spared, especially in areas where the Hindus are large in numbers that the Government wants to impose either a poll tax, or to impress adults for war service abroad. No attempts are made officially to contradict them. An appeal to the Government to contradict these rumours through radio by responsible Maulvis and Pandits have not even been answered. The signs are ominous. Beware of the 1941 Census statistics; especially of the communal proportions. Already Mr. Amery speaks of 9 crores of Muhammadans in India which means an increase of about 17 per cent. in a decade. It is not the case of coming events casting their shadows before, but of the wish being the father of thought.

UDAY SHANKAR THE DANCER.

BY MR. GOPAL DAS

IN the history of Indian Dancing, Uday Shankar is sure to find a permanent place, for this graceful dancer, whom the great Russian ballerina, Anna Pavlova, "discovered" over fifteen years ago at a private performance in London, has not only risen to great heights as a dancer, but has infused new life into the noble art which was being gradually done to death by cheap performers, and has restored it to its former pedestal of greatness when it was regarded as "the worship of the Divine in the form of the Divine".

To see Uday Shankar dance is a life's experience. In his poses, he looks a fresco from Ajanta brought to life. "Centuries are erased when to-day, with

his company of ardent worshippers, he reincarnates the glorious votaries of yore who fervently offered to 'Him Who Dances Worlds' their perfected attainment of a life's culture—the mystic dance and music that reconciles Time with the Timeless by the conception of phase alternations, reconstructing the orderly dance of the spheres, the perpetual movement of atoms, evolution and involution".

Shankar was born 87 years ago in a Bengali Brahmin family in the historic city of Udaipur, in Rajputana. After primary schooling at Benares, he joined the Art School at Bombay in 1917. Three years later he proceeded to London to study at the Royal College of Arts. He studied painting under Sir William Rothenstein

and graduated with distinction, winning the Spencer and George Clausen prizes.

Shankar had his first experience of the stage when he helped his father, the late Dr. Shyama Shankar, at that time a Minister in some Rajputana State, in arranging a performance in London in aid of Indian soldiers wounded in the Great War. He also helped his father in the production of two plays written by the latter.

Dancing had always exercised a great fascination over Shankar ever since he was a young boy, and during this period he often danced at private entertainments, at one of which Pavlova happened to be present. She had just returned from a tour of India and was so impressed by Indian dancing that she asked Shankar to join her company and teach her his country's great art. Sir William Rothenstein, however, refused to part with his favourite pupil who gave abundant promise of future greatness as a painter, and there was a regular tug-of-war between the lady and the knight until Dr. Shyama Shankar's intervention decided his son's future career.

Shankar arranged two Hindu ballets in which he was Pavlova's partner, and subsequently accompanied her on an extensive tour of the United States. But after some time he left the Russian danseuse, ransacked the libraries of London and Paris for books on Indian dancing, and after an intense study of art made his debut as a professional dancer in the principal cities of Europe. His success was immediate. The exquisite "gesture language" of the handsome dancer from the mysterious East, through whose eloquent body flowed a stream of free, beautiful

rhythmic movements, took his audiences by storm!

In 1929, Shankar returned to India and made his first appearance in Calcutta, under the auspices of the Oriental Society of Arts. At the conclusion of the performance, Dr. Abinindranath Tagore, the great savant of Indian painting, went up to the stage and eulogised Shankar's originality, restraint and courage "which had gone to the rescue of a valued tradition that was becoming obsolete".

Shankar's stay in India was not long, for the following year, with the help of Miss Alice Boner, a Swiss Artist, who loved India and her Art, he collected a company of dancers and musicians and took them to Europe and America. Wherever he went, Shankar, who justly claimed to "dance the life of the people and our gods", was hailed as an Ambassador of Indian Culture and one of the greatest dancers of the Age.

But all his success and fame did not satisfy Shankar. As Dr. Rabindranath Tagore wrote to him:

You have earned for yourself rich praise from the connoisseurs of the Art in many different lands and yet I know that you feel it deep within your heart that the path to the realisation of your dreams stretches long before you, where new inspirations wait for you and where you must create, a limitless field, new forms of living beauty.

All his life, Shankar had been a dreamer and so far his dreams had come true. As a boy, his dream was to be a painter and a musician. That came true. Then the vision grew larger and now it was to do something substantial, permanent, for the cause of Indian dancing and music; to establish a sort of a centre where the soul of the artist would find inspiration for creative work.

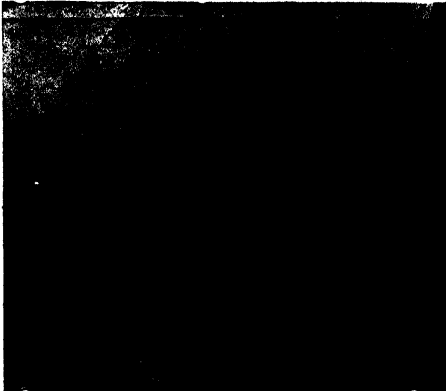
That noble dream, nourished for over fifteen years, has at long last come to be realised. Thanks to generous financial aid by Dartington Hall, England, and some American friends of India and her Culture, Shankar has opened a centre at Almora, in the United Provinces, known as the Uday Shankar India Culture Centre, which will in future serve as a nucleus for the development of all Indian Art.

ELEPHANTS IN INDIAN HISTORY

BY MR. C. N. ZUTSHI

THE elephant is more closely associated with the history of India than any other animal, excepting perhaps the horse. In its domesticated form, it has served the purpose of charger in warfare and majestic member in great processions and Durbars, and rendered many other valuable services to the peoples and princes of India in times of war and peace.

The importance of elephants in Indian History dates from the Vedic Period when they were India's King-makers. They were supposed to be gifted with an unerring instinct to spot out the real scion of the royal blood. So it was that whenever a King died childless, or an heir was kidnapped, it was the royal elephant that was called upon to solve the difficulty. The royal elephant was gaily caparisoned and given a garland to put round the neck of whomsoever he chose in his rambles for the quest of a successor.



From Bernier's
Travels in the Mughal Empire

Wandering through hills and dales, the elephant would come upon a rightful ruler of his choice, and put the garland round his neck. So it was that sometimes a beggar's bowl was exchanged for the kingly crown or a peasant's sickle for the royal sceptre. In this way was the new King found in those olden days, and the courtiers who followed the royal animal

flocked to his standard and swore fealty to him. In the old paintings, Goddess Lakshmi symbolizing sovereignty is shown attended by two elephants standing on either side holding a garland of flowers in their trunks over her head.

Elephants were considered mighty symbols of royal might and grandeur in the East. In ancient times when Delhi was not built, there stood a city on the banks of the Ganges, named Hastinapur, or the city of elephants, which was once the capital of Kauravas and Pandavas. Elephants carrying armed men into battle were used as design on manuscripts in the East in mediaeval times. At the entrance of the Fort at Delhi built by the Great Mughal, there were two large elephants of stone. These two large elephants mounted by the two heroes, Jai Mal and Patta, had according to Bernier a grandeur which he could not describe because of the awe and respect that they inspired him with.

If elephants made Kings, they like true King-makers also unmade or marred many a prince or King on historic battlefields. King Porus counted very much upon his war-elephants for victory against Alexander. But when the Greeks shot their arrows at his elephants and cut off their feet with axes, they were panic stricken, and fled from the battlefield, leaving Porus defeated.

In 712 A.D., when the Arabs under Mir Kasim invaded India, a similar tragedy befell Raja Dahir. The Arabs shot their arrows of naphtha at Dahir's elephants who, turning and on account of wounds inflicted on their bodies, fled helter-skelter from the battlefield, trampling underfoot hundreds of the Raja's own men. Thus the elephants of Dahir proved his own undoing, and paved the way for the Muslim conquest of Sind.

In the second battle of Panipat, Hemu, having defeated the right and left wings of the Mughal army, was advancing, with every prospect of success, against the centre commanded by the Uzbek Khan-Zaman when he was pierced in the eye by an arrow. His elephant fled panic stricken, and his army broke and dispersed in every direction. The elephant was captured, and the

unconscious Hemu was brought before Akbar, who fleshed his maiden sword on the dying Hindu. Thus it was by his own elephant that Hemu's victory was turned into a defeat which cost him his life, and distempered his dreams of occupying the Mughal throne.

It was again the elephant that turned the victory of the Hindus into a defeat on the historic battle field of Talikota. After much tough fighting, the Bijapur and Golkanda chiefs, who led the right and left wings of the Allied armies, gave way and thought of retiring, but the Ahmadnagar Sultan, Husain Nizam Shah stood firm in the centre opposed to Rama Raja, the old king of Vijayanagar. Just then a furious elephant rushed at the litter in which Rama Raja was seated, so that his frightened bearers let him drop. He was then taken prisoner, and at once beheaded by Husain Nizam Shah. The Hindus, seeing their chief destroyed, fled in the utmost disorder from the field, and the battle was lost. Thus it was the elephant that blotted out of existence the great Hindu empire of Vijayanagar, which had lasted for more than two centuries, and assured the supremacy of Islam in the Deccan.

The annals of the Rajputs also contain many stories of victories turned into defeats on account of the elephants turning mad in the critical hour of the battle. But what may seem a very strange exception is the fact that elephants, when turned mad for physical derangement and not under a panic, do sometimes retain their sense of gratitude for favours shown to them. A remarkable instance of how an elephant kept his wits about him even when gone mad, is furnished by the history of the Portuguese in India. Linschoten described how at Goa a woman's child was saved by a mad elephant. When the mad elephant ran about the marketplace, trumpeting; smashing and killing every man he came across, he saw lying on the ground the child of the woman who had given him frequent presents of fruit and vegetables. He stopped, picked up the child tenderly with his trunk, and set it upon the counter of a shop. Thus, the child was restored to the panic-stricken mother.

The services of elephants were requisitioned on a very large scale and in

multifarious ways, both in times of war and peace in Mughal India. In those days the commander of the army was made to sit on a tall Ceylon elephant so that he could be clearly seen towering above the ranks of the army. It was the personality of the leader that inspired the army and encouraged it to vigorous endeavour. To the leader the army looked as it did to its standard. The fortunes of many a prince were wrecked for want of thought and by a hasty action in disregarding this technique of war. Dara lost his victory by the folly he committed in getting down from his elephant; whilst his brother Aurangzeb owed his success to his elephant. In the War of Succession for the throne, when the day was going against Aurangzeb, he ordered the legs of his elephant to be chained together, to make retreat impossible. This was enough to restore the ebbing courage of the few squadrons that still stood beside him, and they fought so well that soon the balance of fortune turned in his favour. This fact reveals a curious feature of Mughal history, namely, that the elephants were the chief factors in battle, both on the winning as well as on the losing side.

Akbar was very fond of elephants, and made much use of them in his battles. He maintained an elephant corps. The elephants he used personally were called *Khasah* (special), the rest which were arranged in battle array in groups of ten, twenty or thirty, were called *halqahs* (circles). The Mansabdars were also required to maintain a certain number of elephants in addition to horses and beasts of burden. Abul Fazi states in the *Ain-i-Akbari* that the emperor put several *halqahs* in the charge of every grandee, and required him to look after them.

John Jourdain, an English traveller, who was at Agra in 1611, recorded that the Great Mughal, Jehangir, had a guard or regiment of elephants which kept watch over him and came daily to him to perform this duty, and had been trained, when beholding the monarch, at once to raise their trunks over their heads and salute him. These elephants had chains, bells, trappings, and furniture of gold and silver, and wore gorgeous coloured velvet and damask silk. They

were also decorated with flags and banners and with headplates and breastplates of gold set with rubies and emeralds. On the Emperor's birthday, each of these royal elephants bowed down before the King, making a solemn reverence. A painting in the manuscript preserved in the Bodleian Library shows two elephants, with riders standing on their back, attending the *darbar* of Shah Jehan.

This remarkable training of the elephants by the natives of India was not confined to the Mughal dominions only. At Goa, too, in the days of the Portuguese, the Government elephants on New Year Days, came out in solemn procession (their bodies painted with the arms and crosses of Portugal, and each carrying on his back six trumpeters or harp-players) to salute the Viceroy, the Archbishop, and the other great officials. Not only did these elephants salute the great officials of Goa, but also they were taught to bow their heads to the great personages when they passed their houses, and also when they passed the doors of the churches.

Elephants were also used in the Mughal Period for undertaking long journeys. Of the different modes of travelling prevalent in those days, two were in special favour of royalty. The Princesses and the great ladies of the Seraglio used to ride on the back of the elephants in *mekdambars* and in the gorgeous litters hung between two elephants wearing massive bells of silver, and decked with costly trappings curiously embroidered. Describing such a pompous procession of the Seraglio, Bernier wrote:

Stretch imagination to its utmost limits, and you can imagine no exhibition more grand and imposing than when Raushan-Ara Begum, mounted on a stupendous Pegu elephant, and seated in a *mikdambar* blazing with gold and azure, is followed by five or six other elephants with *mikdambers* nearly as resplendent as her own, and filled with ladies attached to her household. These lovely and distinguished females, seated in *mikdambers*, are thus elevated above the earth, like so many superior beings borne along through the middle region of the air.

The presentation of elephants was regarded as a great royal favour, although sometimes the favour was a punishment in disguise or gilded over. When Rana

Amar Singh paid his respects to Prince Khuram, the Prince received the Rana with princely generosity, and presented him with *khilats*, an elephant, a horse, and a sword. So did Jehangir present Jagat Singh with an elephant besides rupees and *khilats*. But the presentation of a white elephant was an unprofitable and ruinous dignity conferred upon one whom the King wanted to bring to destitution. It is said that, when the King of Siam wanted to bring any of his courtiers to beggary, he presented him with a white elephant. Of course, the courtier could not refuse a present given him by the King, nor could he refuse to keep the animal; the result was that he was soon a ruined man because the elephant is an animal so hard to supply with food that he would soon eat all that an ordinary person possesses. Thus it is the elephant that has given the idiomatic phrase, a *white elephant*, to the English language, which means a gift that causes more trouble than it is worth.

It was often the delight of some of the Mughal Emperors to go round their capital, distributing gold and silver with open-handed generosity, mounted on an elephant. Jehangir himself wrote in his diary that, in the ninth year of his reign, he was presented, by his son Khuram, with the famous elephant named *Alam Goman* captured from Rana Amar Singh, and that the next day he went abroad mounted on this very elephant, to his great satisfaction, distributing gold in great quantity.

Elephants were also used in the Mughal Empire for dragging the heavy artillery, as they are even now used in some of the Indian States. The contingent, which Jehangir sent in 1608 under the command of Mahabat Khan against Rana Amar Singh, consisted of eighty pieces of artillery mounted on elephants besides thousands of fully armed horsemen and others. Describing the retinue of Aurangzeb when he journeyed to Kashmir for a change, Bernier wrote that, besides consisting of cavalry, infantry and light artillery, it had a heavy artillery of seventy pieces, mostly of brass, and that some of these cannon were so ponderous that when the road was steep

or rugged, they required the aid of elephants, in addition to the oxen, to push the carriage-wheels with their heads and trunks. These field-pieces had to travel with speed so that they might be ranged in front of the royal tent in good time to fire a volley as a signal to the troops of the king's arrival.

Elephants were used not only in wars, but also in peace as toys or playthings to satisfy the giddy pleasures of the eye. Elephant-fights were common in the Mughal Period, and the Emperors took great delight in witnessing such fights of two tuskers—fights which often ended in tragedies. Bernier, writing about these fights, said that they were attended with much cruelty. It frequently happened that some of the riders were trodden underfoot and killed on the spot. The mischief did not end with the death of the rider: it often happened that some of the spectators were knocked down and trampled upon by the elephants, or by the crowd; for the rush was so terrible that, to avoid the infuriated combatants, men and horses in confusion took to flight. Yet witnessing such fights was a favourite pastime with royalty in India in those days, as it is even now in some of the Indian States.

Akbar indulged in the delights of sport with elephants. At Kabul, he had dogs, horses, and camels; but India gave him something new to master. This something new was elephant—an animal which, for its huge size, power, intelligence and swiftness in movement for all its bulk and weight, delighted him. When a certain elephant had killed its driver and become a terror to all, Akbar would place his foot on the elephant's tusk, take his seat with a smile, and set the great beast to fight with another quarrelsome elephant. When in the middle of the fight he saw that the driver of the other elephant had lost control, he would leap from his own elephant on to the other. This and other feats of skill, courage and agility are recorded by Abul Fazl in the *Ain-e-Akbari*; and Emperor Jehangir also in his memoirs confirms his witness by later instances of his father's power to subdue the wildest and most unruly elephant to his will.

There was a Greek King named Menander who ruled over Kabul and the Punjab over two thousand years ago. He was very fond of seeing elephants rolling to death down the sides of a mountain. It was his unique delight to see these black leviathans carried to the top of a mountain and then rolled down to death from the giddy heights.

Elephants were employed as tools of torture and instruments of oppression in ancient India as well as by some of the Mughal Emperors. It was a common mode of execution in those days to have the offender trampled underfoot by an elephant. The extreme ferocity of the punishments inflicted by the Kings of Vijayanagar was one of the chief features of their administration. Besides hanging and impaling, the common kinds of punishments, there were others more fanciful; for when the King desired, he commanded a man to be thrown to the elephants, who tore him to pieces. Knox proves that similar horrors were constantly perpetrated under the Kings of Ceylon. He gives a terribly realistic drawing of the execution by an elephant in his narrative—*An Historical Relation of the Island Ceylon in the East Indies*. Even so humane an emperor as Jehangir also adopted this cruel method of execution. When angry, he was capable of the most fiendish cruelty; he would have men flayed alive, impaled, torn to pieces by elephants, or otherwise tortured to death.

Even to-day elephants are making one sort of history or other, only if we care to appreciate or recognise their services and exploits. Every cinema fan knows Kala Nag who has made film history in our own times. Who does not know Susannah the elephant who has made what may well be called electioneering history in America? In the President-election campaign of 1986 in the United States, this elephant was seen touring round the country, holding a contribution box in his trunk. One day it may well be possible to train elephants to make history in one way or another in modern India.

INDIAN FILMS: A CRITICISM

BY

MR. A. RANGANATHAN

WE are aware that in Western countries, the screen like the Radio has become a dominant force in public life and exercises a powerful influence on the minds of the people. Prominent screen stars like Garbo and Chevalier enjoy a reputation and esteem that kings and statesmen might well envy. This is due to the high level of efficiency attained in the West in the art of acting, in the technique of the films and in the nature of the stories.

In India, though our producers have of late been very active in the production of talkies, it is to be regretted that the quality of production has not kept pace with the quantity. In this connection it has to be conceded that producers of Hindi and Telugu pictures have set up a better ideal before them than the producers of our ill-fated Tamil pictures. South Indian producers owe it to themselves and to the public that they soon revise their notions of film production.

The bane of our South Indian Films has always been their inordinate songs. It might be granted that a talkie in order to retain its entertainment value must contain some song numbers. But instead of the songs being judiciously interspersed along the story, we now see the unfortunate spectacle of practically every one of the actors, from the august queen down to the humble maid, indulging in songs at every conceivable and sometimes inconceivable moment. A hero singing in thundering Attana Raga at a moment when he is about to stab his adversary

with his sword, or a woman bursting into melody before she swoons, is not only untrue to life but extremely grotesque as well.

This meaningless craze for inordinate songs must be put an end to, if South Indian pictures have to make any headway. It is a matter of common knowledge that a person is tempted to sing, whether he be a good or a bad singer only on such occasions when he feels happy. We have not seen persons singing when they are in anger or in sorrow. Hence it stands to reason that songs might be fully exploited in romantic and comic situations of a film or drama. Songs could also be employed when one is in prayer. In all other situations it would be better if proper background music is introduced into a picture. Background music has the advantage of giving the actors more opportunities for acting than singing. By the ample provision of background music, an effort is also made to transfer the taste of the people from songs to acting. It is a method by which the people's tastes are duped as it were unconsciously. This process may be necessarily slow but it appears to be worthy of trial.

As regards stories for our films, it is time that we transfer our affections from mythological plots to historical and social themes. It is true that mythological stories have their own appeal in religious-minded India. But producers, especially in South India, have worm threadbare the whole stock of Hindu mythology and

hence one feels a sense of surfeit when he comes across a Puranic story.

A serious mistake made by South India producers, which has not been sufficiently noticed by critics, is the negligible part that the author of the story plays in the production of a film. Few producers realise that it is to the advantage of the film, if the creator of the story and the characters is taken into their confidence.

There is another defect which mars our South Indian films. It is the apology of what are called love scenes. Naturalness is conspicuous by its absence in romantic situations. Declaration of lovers' affection

for each other is mechanical and unreal. In other words, their actions and utterances lack that indispensable element in acting, namely, *Bhava*. Characters must be portrayed naturally and not merely "acted".

For this purpose, able actors who will understand the spirit of the characters are essential. South India does not suffer from a dearth of good actors. It is for our producers to "discover" them, emulating the example of the North Indian producers. If our producers come into line with their brethren in the North, the day is not distant when Indian films can vie in comparison with Western films.

INDIA AS A MARITIME POWER

BY

MR. K. S. PARAMESWAR

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It is not quite true that people living by the sea must necessarily be a nation of sailors; but it is a question of physical fact that great use could be made use of the sea, which holds possibilities to an enterprising nation for economic, commercial and military purposes.

The British who are a particularly instructive example, never took to the water until the 8th century in spite of their country being surrounded by the sea on all sides.

A nation of shepherds and farmers, the Britishers turned to be excellent sailors, traders, Imperialists and industrial workers, once the crossing of the Atlantic and the discovery of new lands was achieved

mainly for the development of trade and political expansion.

As a converse to England, the Phoenicians, who in the early classical period were famous sailors, transformed themselves into a people of orange-growers and silk-worm-raisers in spite of the hard fact that the blue waters of the Mediterranean washed the shores of Lebanon and afforded plenty of scope and opportunity for a venture.

It is, therefore, altogether a wrong notion to think that the Indians in spite of having lived on the sea-shore—India has a coast line 4,600 miles long—from time immemorial are not good sailors and totally failed to utilise the peculiar and important geographical position offered them by nature.

Ancient India did really take to water and made the best possible use of the geographical position.

Ship-building was not an unknown art in ancient India, and there is ample testimony to prove that Indian merchant vessels were reaching the Persian Gulf and Red Sea in the west, and the East Indian Archipelago, Sumatra, Java and even to Central America right across the Pacific in the East.

Historical records show that in the days of yore, the Aryans colonised the East. As to the routes, the Aryans seemed to have followed both the land and the sea routes. Regarding the sea route, in particular, they seemed to have emigrated both from the eastern as well as the western coasts.

There was a regular trade intercourse, even from a very early period, between the coast of Bengal and the Far East.

In the *Mahajanaka Jataka* reference is made to voyages between Champa and Suvannabhumi. Passengers from distant inland cities like Patna and Benares travelled to the coast of Bengal by land and water and then sailed in open sea for eastern islands. Tamralipti (modern Tamluk) used to be the most important port.

Trade guilds and commercial corporations seemed to have been in existence and commercial intercourse had been maintained with the outside world by way of water.

In the South, the Tamils or the old Dravidians built their own ships.

The mighty Chola dynasty maintained an efficient fleet and the fact is borne out by reference to the destruction of the Navy

of a contemporary dynasty, the Chera dynasty, at Kandalur and the capture of Kadarum after a deadly sea-fight.

Several invasions seemed to have been made of Ceylon and Burma. The Chola dynasty who had Imperialistic leanings, carried out naval expeditions across the Bay of Bengal and annexed those regions in the East that constituted what were commonly known as Greater India.

It was during one of the Chera King's reign that the historic city of Kaveripattanam was built and was made the capital for purposes of flourishing commerce of those days and for the purpose of the defence of the sea frontier. It also became a menace to Ceylon.

It was at that time, it seems, that the city had been a great emporium of trade both inland and overseas.

That exalted intellectual power and dexterity of Shivaji, the founder of the Mahratta Empire, perceived the importance and strategy of naval power not only as an effective arm of war, but also as an instrument for the extension of overseas trade. And this, no doubt, gave an impetus for Shivaji to concentrate a precious part of his attention towards organising a fleet.

Shivaji all the more felt for a strong navy after his conquest of the Konkan, mainly to check sea raids.

It is rather interesting to study the composition of Shivaji's fleet. The fleet consisted mainly of Gallivats and Ghurabs, vessels peculiar to the Malabar coast; also many river crafts of various descriptions.

Sabhasad writes: "No less than four hundred Ghurabs, Tarandes, Tarus, Gallivats, Shibads and Pagars were built and

organised into two squadrons of 200 vessels. Each squadron was placed under the supreme command of an Admiral, Daria Sarang, a Mohammadan officer and Mai Naik, a Bhandari. The fleet was in all probability manned mainly by the Kholis and other sea-faring tribes of the Malabar coast. Nothing is known about their uniforms."

Robert Orme described them thus: "The grabs have rarely more than two masts, although some have three; those of three are about 800-tons burthen, but the others are not more than 150. They are built to draw very little water, being very broad in proportion to their length, narrowing however from the middle to the end, where instead of bows they have a prow, projecting like that of a Mediterranean galley and covered with a strong deck level with the main deck of the vessel from which, however, it is separated by a bulkhead which terminates the forecastle... On the main deck under the forecastle are mounted two pieces of cannon of nine or twelve pounders, which points forwards through the port-holes cut in the bulkhead, and fire over the prow; the cannon of the broadside are from six to nine pounders. The gallivats are large row-boats built like the grab, but of smaller dimensions, the largest rarely exceeding 70-tons; they have two masts of which the mizen is very slight... They mount six or eight pieces of cannon, from two to four pounders; they have forty or fifty stout oars and may be oared four miles an hour."

The *tarande* was a sailing vessel of large dimensions; the *shibad* was a flat-bottomed two-masted craft without any

deck and the *pagar* was only a well-smoothed canoe.

Probably some of these crafts belonged to mercantile navy. The Maharatta realised that a strong naval power without a strong mercantile navy was an impossibility, and Shivaji had a strong mercantile fleet plying between his ports and the coastal towns of Arabia.

At Malwan, which was one of the principal ports of Shivaji, there is a statue of the Maharatta hero with a peculiar Koli hat on his head.

It was too disappointing that Shivaji's navy could accomplish very little excepting some fighting in Siddi. In 1670, a large Portuguese ship was captured near Daman by the Maharatta fleet.

But under the Peshwas the navy thrived a good deal.

A regular naval department was formed with its headquarters at Vijayadurg and Bassein. The revenue of several *Mahals* was granted for the naval establishment.

The admiral (Subhedar) was the military head of the navy. The Amin who was its civil head, was generally responsible for such works as accounts, muster rolls, purchases of provision, etc.,

The Maharatta fleet was generally engaged for checking piracy, collecting *Zakat* from merchantmen coming to and going from Maharatta ports and also for taking possession of wrecks within their territorial waters.

The Peshwas also maintained a strong and powerful fleet to defend the Western Coast.

It was under the Angrias that the Maharatta naval power reached its zenith independent of the Peshwas.

With the fall of the Maharatta Empire, very little could be heard of about the Indian navy and the shipping industry. itself had died out gradually; and with the advent of the British power in India, India has been entirely dependent upon the British navy, there being no sufficient encouragement for the revival of the old and traditional industry.

"In the middle of the last century, there were 84,000 Indian-owned vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 1,250,000. Towards 1900, these had dwindled to a tonnage to a little over 100,000. During the war a few vessels were constructed, presumably for use in Mesopotamia; but it is safe to say that for all practical purposes there is today no India-owned shipping. The coastal shipping registered at the India ports during 1917-18 was a meagre 16,872 tons"—(From 'Reconstructing India' by Sir M. Visveswarayya.)

The unhappy spoliation wrought by the solitary German raider, the *Emden*, in Madras during the early part of the Great War, brought home to the minds of the authorities the important need for creating an Indian Navy.

But nothing was done in the way of encouraging the age old-industry of India after the war.

The present war has once again emphasised the importance of every maritime country building its own ships in its own yards and naturally the demand for reviving the art of ship-building in India. Canada has already set the ball rolling.

The demand is all the more significant due to the fact that the new Ordinance by the Governor-General requisitioning vessels

for use by the British Government for naval work might, to a certain extent, hamper India's overseas trade. Since the war, trade with Australia has considerably increased.

In the meantime, preparations are in full swing for the construction of a ship-building yard at Vizagapatam pioneered by a Bombay business magnate.

Furthermore, it is a welcome sign that the long awaited Government of India announcement to support the project of a ship-building yard at Vizagapatam removes the long standing grievance and gives a fillip to the contemplated project.

As the *Times of India* put it: "The ship-building plan is even more urgent, since the Commonwealth is losing ships at a high rate and must replenish them from every possible course."

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N. GOPALA IYER,

Secretary.

AIR RAIDS AND CIVIL DEFENCE

BY MR. L. M. CHITALE, F.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I.

(Chartered Architect and Town Planning Consultant, Madras)

EVENTS in China, Africa and Europe have shown that modern cities are extremely vulnerable to air attack. Innocent men, women and children, the sick and the suffering have been killed and injured. Many who escaped unhurt have been rendered homeless. Buildings and structures are damaged and destroyed. Transport and communication facilities have been dislocated, and water and gas mains damaged rendering the life of the survivors difficult. In extreme cases, people have been compelled to change their mode of life and subjected to unimaginable physical and mental strain. Even the social and economic life of the nation, subjected to extensive raids, has been affected. Time alone can reveal the consequences to society and civilisation from this formidable menace. But even what little that is obvious is horrible.

Prevention, the most desirable solution, seems impracticable. Protective measures for the citizens, city structures, and essential services to resist the high explosive and incendiary bombs used become necessary. The high explosive bomb is formidable. A 500-pound bomb can penetrate the strongest of our buildings. Its blast can demolish any normal wall at 20 or 25 feet and its fragments can cause death to people even several hundred yards away. None of our buildings can stand a direct hit and near-by explosion. The incendiary bomb, though less deadly, is no less destructive. It can set an effective fire and destroy cities by spreading conflagration.

Protection to life can be ensured by bomb-resisting accommodation, by massive structures carefully designed and built.

But air raid shelters, capable of resisting direct hits of bombs, are very expensive. Unless they are capable of being used in times of peace, their erection is financially impracticable. A dual purpose shelter will solve the question of finance and economy. Modern cities, however, by their lay out require too many than is absolutely essential if our citizens should have ready access to them. To economise in the number of shelters, it is possible only if business houses and residences surround dual purpose air raid shelters. An altered lay out zoning and planning of residential suburbs become necessary to make protection possible to all. Initial outlay is, of course, a big problem, but against this we must consider what it would cost for evacuation and medical aid. No financial outlay can be considered too big when it is a question of preserving life and morale of the people.

Regarding structures, it is idle to recommend that every building should be bomb proof. But by avoiding congestion and by adopting an open lay out, we could minimise the chances of direct hits, and by careful designing and construction, the consequences of blast can be easily rectified and the edifices made fit for use. Framed structures can resist bombs better, and if each building is at least 25 feet away from its neighbour, destruction of structures by bombs would be very expensive if not almost negligible. If buildings are properly classified and if cities are zoned, and the residential area separated from the industrial, commercial and other zones, destruction by bombing would become inadvisable.

Unless cities are planned and zoned, we cannot prevent indiscriminate bombing and casual destruction. Unless we have space around buildings we cannot reduce the effect of vibrations upon foundations, and until our roads are made wide, we cannot hope to keep them free from debris blocking them and preventing the movement of fire fighting and salvage parties.

In conclusion, it comes to this, that to resist the high explosive bomb, our buildings must be suitably designed, our roads must be wide, there must be space around each building and that different kinds of activities must be separated. It is the lack of all these which makes our cities easy prey to raiders.

The kilo incendiary bomb can be prevented from penetrating into a building by a flat reinforced concrete roof five inches thick. Fire breaks are also absolutely essential to prevent fires from spreading and confine destruction to the building actually attacked. Every building in the city must be detached from the rest, with sufficient space around, to prevent fire brands flying and spreading fire. Adequate water supply should also be ensured to every part of the city to fight the fire.

Modern methods of production and distribution of essential services are extremely vulnerable to air attack. The underground system and drainage get shattered when the high explosive bomb hits the street. Even in times of peace the supply of essential services has been found inadequate and when the stress is greater in times of war it fails and destruction and dislocation caused by bombs break the resistance of the people. Dislocation by a few bombs will be made impossible only if the sources of production

and methods of distribution are decentralised and every unit or group of houses is rendered self-sufficient and self-reliant as far as possible. A single-storeyed detached residence with a little garden is essential to obtain optimum welfare for the human species. Such a system will admirably resist air raids.

In commercial and business zones of a prosperous city, water and drainage mains, electric and telephone cables, etc., could be run below the ground in a tube subway constructed of reinforced concrete and kept about 20 feet below the surface. The top surface could be of reinforced concrete made thick enough to serve as a detonating slab and prevent bombs getting in. "Nerve centres" could be housed in buildings of special design and construction located in parks or gardens and camouflaged very well. Gardens and pastures surrounding a city can obviate "digging for victory" in times of war.

To resist air attacks, we must have bomb-proof shelters for all the people, buildings and structures that would minimise the destruction by air raids and services, the supply of which is immune to dislocation. We also require a suitable contingent of fighter aircraft, anti-aircraft guns, balloon barrages and other ground defence equipments. These are needed to force the raiders to attack the targets from a great distance and in great hurry—the two factors which render destruction very expensive. When these four features are carefully combined, we would obtain a city which can protect the citizens and resist attack from the air to such an extent that would make air raids not worth while. This would undermine the enemy's incentive to adopt air raids as his method of aggression.

How will such a city be? There will be a large central park about half a mile in diameter around which civic buildings, stately edifices, temples and the like would find location.

A green belt would surround these to separate them from the city zones lying in the surrounding area—commerce, administration, trade, banking, insurance, etc., each zone separated from the other by parks, open spaces, gardens and roads. Buildings in these zones would be framed ones and not more than six storeyed and located around garages which could be used as bomb proof shelters in emergency. A green belt of gardens and parks 500 to 1,000 yards wide would encircle this area and separate it from the surrounding residential suburbs. The residential zones would be in the form of townships and villages, self-sufficient and self-reliant in matters of water supply and drainage and lighting. Community centres, capable of conversion into bomb resisting accommodation for those residing around would form the foci of each group of residences.

Pasturage and vegetable gardens will encircle the residential belt. In this pasturage will be housed cattle and live stock catering for the dietary, transport and other needs of the city. Anti-air craft gun positions would be in this area to check the raiders. The road encircling this pasturage would help to connect the anti-air craft gun positions, and to defend the boundary better. Ammunition stores, telephone exchanges, broadcasting stations, electric power houses, etc., would be housed in carefully designed structures and located in the green belt. The trees and vegetation and parks would make identification of these very difficult. Aerodromes and railway stations are large

and cannot be concealed in gardens and they, therefore, lie outside the city and away from residences. For the same reason factories are located outside the city. Tanks, ponds, wells, and bathing pools would be all over the city to provide dependable and copious supply of water for fire fighting, the decontamination and normal peace time purposes. The entire city will be surrounded by a belt of agricultural land growing cereals and pulses. And it would be superfluous to "dig for victory" in times of war.

When we critically examine the potentialities of air craft bombs, the method of air attacks, the method of destruction and damage that a city like Madras will permit and the rapidity and facility with which it can recover from air attack, it will become evident that the destruction of city structures will be very expensive, dislocation of the supply of essential services will be nearly impossible, and citizens would be absolutely safe. These may not make air attacks impossible but would make raids not worth while and inadvisable. Herein lies the chance for cities and civilisation to survive the air menace.

The expense and effort of preserving civilisation and culture in its modern abode—uncontrolled agglomeration of men and buildings—is prohibitive. Three hundred and sixty thousand pounds a day are needed for partial evacuation and A. R. P. Organisation for England, not to speak of the 16 million pounds expended every day to resist aggression mainly from the air. Is it too much to ask then to spend much less to obtain much more—permanent abodes of peace and security for man and his material culture?

INDO-CYLON RELATIONS

THE publication of the documents relating to the recent conversations in Delhi, between the Ceylon delegation and representatives of the Indian Government throw light on the nature of the differences that persist in spite of efforts at reconciliation. It shows what the Indian delegation stood for and why the Ceylon representatives could not accept it, and how in the circumstances the best that could be done was to disperse for the present, after placing on record their respective points of view.

The Ceylon delegation's case is, that the Island cannot sustain, at any reasonable standard of living, all the Indians now resident as well as the indigenous population and that in order that the economic welfare of the Ceylonese might be ensured, Indians should be sent out, at least as many of them as the Ceylonese consider to be surplus population from their point of view. The Indian delegation was prepared to agree to concede to Ceylon the right to regulate her population so far as future immigrants are concerned, but held that Ceylon should, on her part, recognise the right of Indians already in the Island to be treated as full citizens.

There is keen regret in India, both in official and non-official circles that the conversations have failed to produce a compromise. While India is waiting in hope for another opportunity to make a fresh approach (for it would be a pity if the two historic neighbours cannot agree on a settlement), it is painful to see efforts made at the other end to frustrate all attempts. Even certain members of the Ceylon Government and delegation went out of their way to denounce the Indian attitude and attempts are made to bring in fresh legislation to counteract the effect of any settlement that may yet come into being. For, that and no other is the purport of the legislation over the question of immigration.

Press forecasts of the bills, which are expected to be introduced in the State Council on March 4, show that the immigration bill requires immigrants to possess, in addition to a passport, one of the two kinds of permits issued by the Controller of Immigration.

The action of the Ceylon Governor, Sir Andrew Caldecott, in sending his message to the State Council to refrain from such legislation is, therefore, both right and timely. The message which had been placed before the House along with other papers relating to the recent Indo-Ceylon exploratory talks

placed on contemporary record in an easily accessible form a schedule of certain matters in respect of which an undertaking had been given by His Majesty's Government and by the Government of Ceylon to the Government of India and added that having regard to the circumstances in which these undertakings had been given, the Government of Ceylon were bound by them to the Government of India, and I hold myself bound as the Governor to withhold approval, ratification or assent in respect of any act, regulation or measure to which the Government of India did not agree and the effect of which would be to deprive Indians of the benefit of any of the undertakings.

The Governor's message was the subject of an adjournment motion in the State Council. Sir Baron Jayatilaka, in moving the adjournment motion, stated that the Board of Ministers considered that the publication of the Governor's message was ill-timed and whether intended or not, was calculated to render the task of the House in dealing with the Indian question very difficult. Sir Baron declared:

One impression created by the message of the Governor was that under no circumstances could this country or the Council propose any measure which would affect Indians without the prior consent of the Government of India. That is an intolerable situation.

But support to the attitude of the Government of India representatives at the Delhi conversations and appreciation of the Governor of Ceylon's message to the State Council were the leading features of the debate in the Central Assembly in India. The people of India fully appreciate the firm and determined stand taken up by the Government of India in this matter. This was expressed in the amendment moved by Sir Raza Ali, former Agent-General to the Government of India in South Africa, who also conveyed the House's appreciation of the timely action of the Governor of Ceylon. The amendment runs:

This Assembly regrets the failure of the Indo-Ceylon conversations as revealed in verbatim report and supports the attitude adopted by the representatives of the Government of India, which faithfully represents the point of view of Indian public opinion; and while recognising the desire of the Ceylon State Council to maintain its independence of action, appreciates the message sent by the Governor of Ceylon to that body with respect to the undertakings given by His Majesty's Government and by the Government of Ceylon to the Government of India and expresses the hope that it will serve to emphasise the importance particularly under present circumstances of nothing being done by the Government and the people of Ceylon, which will endanger the good relations which should exist between the two countries whose interests are so intimately bound together.

It is some relief to note that whatever differences there may be on other questions, the Government of India are in complete accord with the people of this country so far as our nationals abroad are concerned.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai whose brilliant advocacy of the case for India has elicited unstinted appreciation from all parties of the House truly pointed out that it was no intrusion in the internal affairs of Ceylon to express appreciation of the statesmanlike, bold and courageous act of the Governor.

As for the future, he said: it was possible there would be some display of temper—we were not immune from it ourselves—

but he had no doubt that as time passed and Ceylon reflected upon what the Governor had said to them and we in this House had been saying, the people of that country would see that the door would be re-opened for a resumption of discussions.

As we go to Press, it is reported that two bills, one for regulating and controlling the entry of non-Ceylonese into Ceylon, and the other for registration of persons in Ceylon who do not possess Ceylon domicile or origin, have been approved by the Board of Ministers.

It is understood that the Government of India had sent a message to the Government of Ceylon, stating that the serious repercussions were likely to follow any unilateral action regarding the question of immigration which, the Government of India contended, should form part of a general settlement of all Indo-Ceylon problems.

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April '41.

THE BUDGET AT A GLANCE.

—:0:—

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN, Finance Member, introduced the Budget for 1941-42 in the Central Assembly on February 28. This Second War Budget of India discloses a deficit of Rs. 8.42 lakhs for 1940-41 and a prospective deficit of Rs. 20.46 lakhs for 1941-42. The figures at a glance are:

REVISED ESTIMATES FOR 1940-41.

	Rs.
Revenue ..	103.71 lakhs.
Expenditure ..	112.13 "
Deficit ..	8.42 "

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1941-42.

	Rs.
Revenue ..	106.39 lakhs
Expenditure ..	126.85 "
Deficit ..	20.46 "

Announcing this prospective deficit of Rs. 20.46 lakhs, the Finance Member proposed

to increase the rate of the excess profits tax from 50 per cent. to 66½ per cent. to yield Rs. 2½ crores;

to raise the central surcharge on income-tax and super-tax from 25 per cent. to 33½ per cent. to yield an additional Rs. 190 lakhs. (The provinces' share of the income-tax pool is expected to reach Rs. 4.46 lakhs in 1941-42 against Rs. 3.73 lakhs this year);

to double the excise duty on matches to produce Rs. 150 lakhs;

to increase the import duty now leviable on artificial silk yarn and thread. The duty stands at 25 per cent. *ad valorem* or 3 annas per pound, whichever is higher, and he proposed to increase the alternative specific duty to 5 annas per pound to yield Rs. 36 lakhs;

to introduce a new 10 per cent. *ad valorem* excise duty on pneumatic tyres and tubes to yield Rs. 35 lakhs.

The total estimated yield of new taxation is Rs. 6.61 lakhs which brings the estimated revenue for 1941-42 to 118.00 lakhs and reduces the prospective deficit to Rs. 1,885 lakhs. The uncovered revenue deficit will be met by borrowing.

The strengthening of all arms of India's Defence Service is estimated to cost

approximately Rs. 24 crores this year and Rs. 85 crores additional expenditure next year.

The benefit to India from the recent repatriation of sterling loans, it was explained, lies in the reduction of the Government of India's external debt by about Rs. 120 crores, the decrease in sterling interest charges and an immediate gain to revenue.

Other salient features are the increase in the number of workmen employed, the provision made for the production of armoured and mechanised regiments and of army equipment in boots and saddlery thirty times the pre-war average.

The year 1941 will, we are told, witness the appearance of the first "Made in India" aeroplanes. A number of modern aircraft and connected equipment are expected from American sources. Vehicles, machine tools and other essential war requirements are now permitted to be purchased in the United States and Canada.

WORLD FINANCE, 1938-1939

By Paul Einzig. The consequences of Austrian annexation and dismemberment of Czecho-Slovakia, struggle of the franc, trade revival, flight of capital, gold dishoarding and rehoarding, war and rearmament finance are discussed in this book. Rs. 9-6-0.

THE INDIAN PUBLIC DEBT

By Dr. D. L. Dubey, M.A. The author gives accurate and detailed information on the borrowing policy of the Government of India in recent times. Rs. 8.

CONTROL OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

By Dr. Heinrich Heuser. Rs. 9-6-0.

FEDERAL FINANCE IN INDIA

By Prof. K. T. Shah. Rs. 6.

Postage is extra in all cases.

G. A. Natesan & Co., Esplanade, Madras.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

By "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

Mr. Amery Again

MR. AMERY'S latest declaration that the British Government can do nothing to end the deadlock until the political parties in India come to an agreement is a confession of failure on his part to grapple with the situation. It is a repetition of the old, old story which we have heard *ad nauseam* and it is the tragedy of the situation that one in his position should have nothing better to offer.

The Minority stunt is receiving more than its due share, and Mr. Amery's "India First" has steadily given place to the demands of what he calls "the great Mahomedan community of 90 millions in India and the Indian States with their long and different history".

Mr. Amery talks of the "pretensions" of the Congress, but has apparently acquiesced in the pretensions of the League. No wonder that the insistence on "agreement between the main elements of India's national life" of which he is making so much, serves the British Government as an excuse for their unwillingness to part with power.

And yet, at the same breath, he goes on repeating that the declaration of our policy for India is the same freedom as that which is enjoyed by the Dominions or by ourselves for that matter as equal partners in the British Commonwealth family of nations.

Such soothing syrups have long ceased to inspire faith in British professions. Let us have an ounce of practice and let us know what actual measures will be taken immediately to supplement such declarations. It will not do to pretend to ignore the forces ranged in defence of freedom and democracy in India.

England and India

Apart from appreciation of India's magnificent war effort in the shape of money and munition and men, the sum-total of Britain's interest in India seems to be confined to occasional questions and unhelpful answers in Parliament. Somehow Mr. Amery's fatuous replies seem to have a soothing effect on the self-complaisant Britisher. Even a war, and the grim necessities of the struggle, have not taught the authorities the need for conciliation. Those at the helm of affairs fight shy of making any declaration as to war aims in regard to India and the subject countries. British apathy and truculence are driving a wedge, which threatens to widen the gulf between England and India. The situation, as it is developing, is succinctly put by Mr. Edward Thompson in the *New Statesman*:

On the one side, the Government is now trying again to smash the Congress by ordinances and hundreds of arrests. On the other side, the extreme Left here believe in fairies and talk of an irresistible 'movement of the Indian masses' which will sweep aside both Fascism, Nazism and Imperialism. These people would have been excited in the time of Wat Tyler and would have been sure that next week kings and barons would all be thrown into the Thames. There is no such movement; nothing but a vast helpless poverty and misery, easily shot down or stampeded into panic, without arms, without physical strength or leadership. Meanwhile, the war has split into two halves, and its whole eastern half must be based on India, whose resources and man-power are being dragged into what is our war and not yet hers. We are being told nothing of what is happening in India except an occasional B. B. C. announcement that a Muslim League meeting in Peshawar (in the province where the League could not win a single seat) and an All-India Conference (there are many laws in India, but no law that forbids you calling yourself and your choice friends in India an All-India Conference) in Nagpur (of all places) have "unanimously" decided to support us. But Nehru is in prison—and there is no man in any land who draws the peculiarly personal affection from men and women of all creeds that he draws.

A settlement is possible on terms which provide for ordered transition to self-government when the war ends. But you cannot get that settlement because "the Left" do not care. Labour is said to have a say in national policy, but what Labour leader has said one word about India since the war began? What policy has Labour for India?

Sir P. C. Ray

Not many words are needed to commend the appeal sponsored by Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar and issued over the signatures of so many distinguished men in the country to commemorate the eightieth birthday of Acharya Sir Profulla Chandra Ray. It would be superfluous to attempt to chronicle the manifold services that Sir Profulla has rendered to the country. As Professor of Chemistry in the Presidency College, and later as Palit Professor of Chemistry in the University College of Science, Calcutta, two generations of students have sat at his feet and received from him, not only their knowledge of chemistry but inspiration for a new life as well. He has also been associated with almost every philanthropic activity in this country and has organised large-scale relief work in times of flood and famine. Long before the birth of the Swadeshi movement, Sir Profulla was a pioneer Swadeshi industrialist; and it is fitting that the organisers of the Fund propose to use it for the promotion of scientific and industrial research in the country. We have no doubt the appeal, "made in the proud name of India's great scientist-philanthropist", will have prompt and generous response.

Subash Chandra Bose

Not only his friends and relatives but the whole Indian public has been deeply concerned over the sudden disappearance of Subash Chandra Bose from his Calcutta residence. So far no trace of his whereabouts, nor any definite reason for so baffling an action has been discovered. Subash was interned in his house and was due to take his trial for a speech

he had delivered in April and for an article in his journal. It is difficult to attribute his escape to fear of consequences; for Subash never lacked courage whatever else his failings may be. He had defied the Government, he had defied the Congress and stood their wrath with unconcern. But he was physically a broken man even before Tripuri and the vexations of failure in all his undertakings since he broke with the Congress must have told on his spirit, however robust. It is surmised that he must have gone away in quest of some religious Guru, or some quiet place far away from the madding crowd. Whatever the reason, it is an escape none the less belying his past record. It would be unfair to judge this mysterious action until we have his own explanation.

Ministerial Crisis in Sind

So long as there was trouble in Sind, Mr. Jinnah discreetly kept away as he could not do anything to restore peace in the Province. Now that the Azad Pact has secured for the Province some measure of understanding with a view to efficient government, Mr. Jinnah is out to destroy the good work. For his fulminations against the work of the Congress President mean no more than an attempt to throw mud at the good Maulana and exalt himself. But it is Sind that suffers and not Mr. Jinnah, who is asking the League members to go back upon their words.

"The three Muslim League Ministers, by violating the 'gentleman's agreement', have shown that they cannot be depended upon," declared Khan Bahadur Allah Bux, Finance Minister. Referring to Mr. Jinnah's statement that the Azad Pact was a myth, the Khan Bahadur observed that pact or no pact, the crux of the matter was that the Muslim League Ministers had violated the gentleman's agreement and, as such, made a meal of their own word of honour.

Treatment of Detenus

From his place in the Central Assembly, Sir Reginald Maxwell, Home Member of the Government of India, created a stir by his offensive and irrelevant remarks on the detenus, who are not in a position to refute his charges. Now, some of the detenus may be mistaken in their methods and misguided too, but to denounce them as traitors is a misuse of language.

The occasion was a modest request from Mr. N. M. Joshi, the nominated member, who merely asked for an enquiry into the condition of the detenus on purely humanitarian considerations. What was the surprise of the House when the Home Member worked himself into a fury and described the detenus as "not decent, honest persons deserving of sympathy". "The great majority of them," he said, "are utterly worthless persons whose life is spent in plotting the downfall of society." He denounced them as "persons capable of the worst kind of treachery" who, therefore, did not deserve the sympathy of the House. Apart from its bad taste, Sir Reginald's answer was astounding in its enormity.

Rebutting the Home Member's remarks on the character of the detenus, Mr. Joshi observed :

These remarks are not only uncalled for but unjust, unfair, undignified, and, if I may use that word with reference to a prominent member of this House, very irresponsible.

The Home Member had expressed the hope that the mover had no friends among the detenus. Said Mr. Joshi :

I must disappoint him. I have a number of friends among them. Not only that; I am proud of these friends, as proud of them as I would be of having the Home Member as a friend. There are young men among them of whom any father would be proud.

He gave the instance of a young boy with a brilliant University career, who, he assured the Home Member, was not a

paid agitator and whose father was as wealthy as the Home Member himself.

I am sorry he should have called these people traitors. They may be mistaken about the methods which they are following, but that a Britisher, who engages himself for the sake of pay in holding a foreign country in bondage, should call an Indian who fights for the freedom of his country, may be mistakenly as regards methods, a traitor, is thoroughly unjust.

Commenting on the Home Member's remarks about the distinction between Italian and German prisoners and Indian detenus, Mr. Joshi said the Home Member did not appear to see much fault in Italians and Germans and Nazis. It was no fault to be a Nazi, but it was a fault to be a communist and a revolutionary!

His Government has been telling the whole world that they are fighting Nazism and Fascism and he, from his place in the House, says there is no fault in a Nazi or a Fascist.

Communalism in the Services

"So long as it is our policy to make promotions by merit, I shall regard it my duty to see that every man serving under me, whatever his class or creed, has a fair chance of advancement to posts for which he is eligible and qualified."

In this emphatic and righteous manner did Sir Andrew Clow, Communications Member of the Government of India, defend the principle of promotion by merit in his speech on the Railway Budget in the Central Assembly. "On this point," he added,

the members of the Muslim League Party (who staged a walk-out) and I admittedly do not see eye to eye; but the policy pursued in that respect is not my policy. It is a policy pursued in every department and by every Member of the Government, and it represents the policy of the Government as a whole.

There is no doubt the earlier policy of giving preference to Anglo-Indians in the Railway Services was too blatant to be acquiesced in. As Sir David Devadoss put it in the Council of State:

If Ramaswamy becomes Ramson and Subramanyan becomes Sanderson, he has an easy walk over the qualified members of other communities.

Sir Andrew did well to make an unequivocal declaration against it. He was anxious, he said

to see that promotions were not based on communal considerations. He was equally anxious to see that no man of any community was biased or prejudiced because he happened to belong to that community.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

Hitler's Latest

"WE have been waiting for our new U-boats and in March and April a naval warfare will start such as the enemy never expected. New U-boats are now ready." In these words, Hitler repeated at Munich the threat he had uttered in the Berlin Sportpalast on January 30 of a ruthless submarine war on Britain. He revealed his intention to use the conquered peoples of Europe to increase German armaments when he declared:

I used the power of the German nation for this purpose in good time. I am resolved to use Europe for the same purpose if necessary—in fact I am doing so.

Referring to the relation with Mussolini, he said:

When I have chosen a man I stick by him. The bond which unites our revolution is indissoluble. If there is a time when one of them is better off and the other worse off, the former will help the latter because it is a common enemy we are going to defeat.

The Turco-Bulgarian Pact

A declaration of friendship, enumerating four points on which they have reached agreement, has been signed by Turkey and Bulgaria. Both Nations declare it to be the unchanging basis of their foreign policy to abstain from aggression, both declare that they are inspired by the most friendly intentions towards each other and are ready to seek appropriate means to develop trade relations between their two countries.

M. P's in Armed Forces

A British White Paper issued in the closing week of February records that no fewer than 166 members of the House of Lords, and 116 members of the House of Commons, are now serving in His Majesty's forces. Of the 282 members of both Houses, 81 are in the Navy, 225 in the Army and 86 in the Air Force.

Japan's Offer of Mediation

Mr. Butler, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, was asked in the House of Commons to state the precise terms of the Japanese offer of mediation. Mr. Butler declared:

In a recent communication to Mr. Eden, the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, after referring generally to the European War, observed that Japan was fully prepared to act as mediator or to take whatever action was calculated to restore peace and normal conditions, not only in Greater East Asia but anywhere in the world. The Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs in subsequent public statements (made, he has said, after consulting Germany) has indicated that his words were not to be regarded as an offer of mediation in the European War. In any case, the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs has been informed by the Prime Minister that in a cause of the kind for which we are fighting—a cause in no way concerned with territory, trade or material gains, but affecting the whole future of humanity—there can be no question of compromise or parley.

Turkey and England

The Turkish Foreign Minister, M. Sarajoglu declared in Ankara that Turkey would stand by her commitments to Britain, in spite of the Turco-Bulgarian pact of non-aggression. The Minister, who made this statement in an interview with the representative of a Turkish newspaper, added:

Turkey remains faithful to her alliances. She could not in any way remain indifferent to foreign activities taking place in her zone of security. She will offer armed opposition to all aggression directed against her territorial integrity and independence.

Capture of Mogadishu

After a record-breaking advance from the Juba river, Imperial troops have captured Mogadishu, capital and chief port of Italian Somaliland.

Mogadishu was the principal Italian base for their forces coming from Somaliland during the Italian campaign against Abyssinia. Although Mogadishu is the most important port in Italian Somaliland, it is not a good one. Italians intended to improve it, but the work was never started.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

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- Jan. 29. General Metaxas, Greek Premier, is dead; M. Korizis succeeds.
—British forces enter Italian Somaliland.
- Jan. 30. In the Commons, Mr. Amery says "Government's policy holds the field."
- Jan. 31. Franco-Thailand armistice agreement is signed.
—British troops occupy Derna.
- Feb. 1. Standing Committee of Editors' Conference meets at Delhi.
—Fierce battle for Agordat and Barentu.
- Feb. 2. Mr. Willkie is summoned Home to give evidence before the Lease and Lend Bill Committee.
- Feb. 3. British troops capture Agordat.
—Editors' Conference suggests methods of consultation and advice and pleads for revival of *Harijan* papers.
- Feb. 4. Sir P. C. Ray is awarded the Sir Wm. Jones memorial medal.
—Mr. Edey, speaking in the Commons, reaffirms the Emperor's claims to Ethiopia.
- Feb. 5. Lord Lloyd, Secretary for Colonies, is dead.
—Indo-Burma Trade talks open at Delhi.
- Feb. 6. Replying to questions in the Commons, Mr. Amery refers again to the Declaration of 8th August.
—Sir Kingsley Wood moves for war-time credit of £1,600 millions.
- Feb. 7. British troops capture Benghazi.
- Feb. 8. Five Indian Sterling loans are purchased by British treasury for debt redemption.
—Lease & Lend Bill passed by House of Representatives by 260 votes against 165.
- Feb. 9. Britain withdraws her Minister from Bucharest.
- Feb. 10. Mr. Willkie, giving evidence before Foreign Relations Committee, urges more effective aid to Britain.
- Feb. 11. Americans in Japan are advised to be ready to leave.
—General Franco meets Mussolini.
- Feb. 12. By a constitutional decree, Admiral Darlan is named Marshal Petain's successor.
- Feb. 13. General Franco meets Petain.
—U. S. Consular Officers advise American citizens to leave Far Eastern countries.
- Feb. 14. Mr. Matsuoka announces that Japan-Soviet negotiations are in progress.
- Feb. 15. Nazis urge Yugoslavia to sign the Axis Pact.
—Britain warns Bulgaria against allowing German troops marching into Bulgaria.
- Feb. 16. All-India Hindu League appeals to Government to end the impasse.
—Eastern approaches to Singapore mined.
- Feb. 17. A non-aggression pact is concluded between Bulgaria and Turkey.
- Feb. 18. Roosevelt creates defence belt in Pacific.
- Feb. 19. Japan offers mediation in the war.
- Feb. 20. In reply to Maha Sabha, Gandhiji declines Congress participation in Central Government reorganisation so long as Congress demands remain unconceded.
- Feb. 21. Matsuoka denies offer of mediation.
- Feb. 22. Petain refuses passage for Italian troops through Tunis.
- Feb. 23. Two hundred U. S. Planes fly across the Pacific to Singapore.
- Feb. 24. In the B. B. C. broadcast, Mr. Amery blames Congress for impasse.
—Hitler threatens big naval warfare in March and April.
- Feb. 25. Addis Ababa is bombed.
—Mr. Anthony Eden visits Turkey.
- Feb. 26. Board of Ministers in Ceylon approve draft bills over question of immigration.
- Feb. 27. German troops in Africa.
—Jap ultimatum to France and Thailand.
- Feb. 28. Gandhiji opens Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital in Allahabad.
—Ex-King Alfonso of Spain is dead.

The WORLD of BOOKS

1. LAW RELATING TO COMPANY DIRECTORS IN INDIA. Price Rs. 8 Net.
2. HOW TO FORM A COMPANY. By H. R. Mehrotra, G.D.A. Published by the Progressive Publishing Co., Calcutta. Price Rs. 8 Net. (Available of G. A. Natesan & Co.,)

These two books deal with a branch of the Company Law, which requires as much a knowledge of the legal provisions as of the practical working of Companies. The Author as an Accountant has gained considerable experience of the latter, and by a special study of the law, has been able to grasp and expound the principles of the Company Law with clearness and precision.

In the Law relating to Company Directors in India, the Author deals with the position of Directors, expounds the provisions of the Indian Companies Act and the Rules framed thereunder regarding them and elucidates with a wealth of illustrations drawn from decided cases, English and Indian, not only their rights and privileges but also their duties and liabilities.

In devoting as many as 9 Chapters to the power, disabilities, duties and liabilities of the Directors, the Author has done well to emphasise the heavy responsibility which a Director owes to the shareholders. The other chapters of the book deals with the appointment qualification, remuneration and vocation of Office by the Directors and with their management of the Company.

In "How to Form a Company", the Author deals with the provisions of the

Companies Act and the Rules framed thereunder relating to the formation of Companies. Nothing is more important in the formation of Companies than a strict observance of the rules, non-compliance with which would expose the promoters to penalties. The promoters are required to exhibit great care in seeing that their invitation to the public does not contain any fact which is untrue or calculated to deceive. Their interest in the concern has to be brought to the notice of the public. The Incorporation of the Company has to be made in strict compliance of the Act. The Memorandum and Articles where Articles are drawn up, require to be filed before the Registrar and what they should contain is briefly described in the book. The book is intended for the businessmen and has steered clear of the intricacies of judicial pronouncements. It is written in an easy and intelligible style, which a layman can readily understand.

These two books will prove of great assistance to the Promoters and Directors of Companies and will prove useful additions to the Library of Company Law in India.

SHELLS FROM THE SEA-SHORE. By K. R. Menon. Published by The Greater India Publishing House, 80, Wilkie Road, Singapore. Price \$1.00.

This is a collection of twenty poems on every-day familiar subjects composed in simple, unpretentious language. The author seeks esoteric truth and beauty in the life of the Universe around him. The waste-paper basket, the fallen tree, a Baby or poverty inspire him to versification. The poems are illustrated by G. Vasudevan.

THE INDIVIDUAL IN PROGRESS (Principal Miller Lectures, 1980-40). By Prof. P. Narasimham, M.A., M.E.S. (Retd.) The University of Madras. As. 8.

The reprint from the *Journal of the Madras University*, Vol. XII, No. 1, contains the two lectures delivered by Professor Narasimham under the Principal Miller Foundation. The topic of the lectures is the progress of the individual towards the attainment of his goal, viz., spiritual freedom or mukti. And the learned Professor approaches the problem from a co-ordinated standpoint based on the Sankhya and the Vedanta. He begins by discussing the implications of the two paths shown in the Hindu thought, pravritti and nivritti, activity and renunciation. According to tradition, pravritti means a life of action or karma, and nivritti cessation of action or sannyasa; and so they came to be regarded as opposed to each other. But Prof. Narasimham maintains that the two paths should be viewed as complementary to each other and not as contradictories.

MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE FAR EAST.
By M. H. Moledina, Poona.

This is a delightful account of the impressions of the author's visit to Japan. He has 'done' the country thoroughly and has seen all that travellers are usually shown. This part of the book is not particularly important; but what is important is the author's observations on the industrial organisation and social life of the Japanese people. In fact, no Indian visitor to Japan can fail to be impressed by the fact that this Oriental people with a special and religious background, very similar to ours, should have developed their material resources in the way that

they have done. It is true that one result of this has been somewhat to barbarise their nature and to make of them crude and cruel imperialist exploiters. But apart from that, it is clear that the Japanese people, in spite of a culture which is the offspring of the Indian, have nevertheless shown a remarkable aptitude for practical success in affairs of this life, commerce and industry, science and research and the like. Why has this been possible to them which has not yet been found possible in this country? Mr. Moledina suggests the answer in various passages of his very interesting book; it is their pure and unsullied patriotism which, higher than any religious discipline, fits them for national service and common endeavour. The results of the impact of western culture on an eastern people cannot be studied to greater purpose than in Japan, and this author employed his time wisely and well in making that study.

COME WIND, COME WEATHER. By Daphne Du Maurier. Allied Publishers, Bombay.

In these war time stories of actual life among different grades of people, the author of *Rebecca* finds that the spirit of Drake and Nelson still lives. Heroism is not confined to the theatres of war; there is as much of it among the ordinary people at Home, who are doing deeds of gallantry in their respective spheres. That is the burden of the stories which reveal the real strength of England in the present crisis. The types include a grocer, a labour revolutionary, a successful doctor, a stricken mother, a miner—each one of these showing how war-time worries and difficulties could be turned into opportunities to spread a spirit of victory on the Home front.

TO BEG I AM ASHAMED. By Sheila Cousins.
Kitabistan Limited, Allahabad. Rs. 8.

The sub-title of this book, as the author herself describes, is an authentic autobiography of a London prostitute. She describes in lurid colours without any attempt at sophistication the day to day life of a Piccadilly Street walker, soliciting men who can afford to pay for carnal pleasure. There is wonderful psychology to be gathered from the various Piccadillies of the common tart. The anxious inquirer is curious to know the mental attitude of a woman, who hires her flesh for so much of a trash. He will find interesting information in this book in which is described how the woman, while allowing the hirer to have his heart's fill, is herself completely detached. It is a cold scientific account of the ways of a fallen woman, who feels pride and no shame in the life voluntarily chosen by herself to eke out her livelihood. The book does not seem to serve any useful purpose, except to satisfy the morbid curiosity of inquisitive introverts.

THE MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH—Centenary Volume. Published by the Centenary Celebrations Committee, Cawnpore.

The Committee formed for the celebration of the Centenary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh at Cawnpore, has brought out this volume containing an introduction by Mr. St. Nihal Singh, who was greatly responsible for the successful conduct of the celebrations, and the Presidential Address of Dr. Sir Shafaat Ahmad Khan, who was invited to preside over the function, the Welcome Address of Mr. Narain Prasad Arora, Chairman of the Reception Committee, and also 17 papers on Sikh history from various scholars scattered throughout India.

AN APPROACH TO INDIAN ART. By K. Chandrasekharan. Published at the Madras Law Journal Press, Madras.

This is a print of the T. R. Venkatarama Sastri Birthday Endowment Lecture, delivered under the auspices of the South Indian National Association, Madras..

A very well-informed and suggestive lecture on a vitally interesting subject.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—:O:—

A SHORT LIFE OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA. Advaita Ashrama, Almora.

THE I. C. S. AND THE OTHER ALL-INDIA SERVICES. By J. B. Petit, Bombay.

CHARKA: A POEM. By J. V. Rangacharya. 5, Lakshmi Vilas, Daniel St., Thyagarayanagar, Madras.

REPORT OF THE MADRAS FAMINE CODE REVISION COMMITTEE, 1938, Two Vols. Government Press, Madras.

THE TRIAL CELESTIAL. By Suryadutt J. Bhatt. Karnatak Publishing House, Bombay.

THE POETRY OF VALMIKI. By M. Venkatesa Iyengar. The Bangalore Press, Bangalore.

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INDIAN STATES

Hyderabad

PRIMARY EDUCATION IN HYDERABAD

"I consider that the extension of primary education is the first step in the campaign against illiteracy, towards the removal of which we should continuously direct our efforts until every individual in the Dominions, whether young or old, is able to read and write and the curse of illiteracy is thus finally lifted," said the Rt. Hon. Sir Akbar Hydari, President of the Nizam's Executive Council, opening a primary school building at Dornakal in the Nizam's Dominions on February 12.

Declaring the school building open, Sir Akbar Hydari said: "Under the present circumstances we should not remain satisfied merely with starting and multiplying primary schools, but proceed boldly to devise other methods of eradicating ignorance by imparting knowledge and culture to the masses in such a way that not merely children but adults as well might benefit from those efforts.

For instance, extensive use should be made of the film, radio, and gramophone in order to spread learning in the true sense of the word."

HYDERABAD MEDICAL COUNCIL

The Hyderabad State Medical Council was inaugurated by the Rt. Hon. Sir Akbar Hydari on January 28. He said that the establishment of the Council was a landmark in the progress and organisation of medical relief in H. E. H. the Nizam's Dominions. Sir Akbar gave the assurance that the needs of the Council would always receive sympathetic consideration from the Government.

Mysore

DRIVE FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY

In order to maintain a steady drive towards self-sufficiency in essential requirements in Mysore State, the Government of Mysore have sanctioned a scheme for increasing the cultivation of paddy by the raiyats in the State.

At present, Mysore is importing every year 10 to 20 lakhs of *pallas* of paddy valued from 50 to 100 lakhs of rupees. As the paddy area in the State is 10 lakhs of acres, the deficit in the production of paddy works out from 1 to 2 *pallas* per acre. To make up for this, the new scheme of Government contemplates the gradual decrease of the annual import of paddy by five-year programme for the extension of improved varieties of paddy in 20 talukas in the State.

NEW AGRICULTURAL SCHEME

The Government of Mysore have sanctioned a scheme for the establishment of an agricultural colony in the Irwin Canal area for the benefit of educated young men who wish to pursue an agricultural life. According to the scheme approved by Government, it is proposed that each colonist be given 15 acres of land on a six-year lease, a capital loan of Rs. 1,500 and an annual loan of Rs. 500 for working expenses. It is estimated that each colonist will be able to earn a nett annual income of Rs. 600.

If the colonists make a success of their venture at the end of the six year lease period, they would be given possession of the 15 acres at a nominal price to be recovered in 10 annual instalments.

Travancore**RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT**

The Working Committee of the Travancore State Congress passed a resolution assuring the public that the State Congress stands unflinchingly by its objective of responsible government under the aegis of His Highness the Maharajah and that it will lose no time in reorganising all political forces within the State willing to work towards that objective through all peaceful and constructive means.

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyer, the Dewan, commenting on the resolution said in the course of an interview:

"The Government have no objection to the conduct of normal political work by any organisation within the State subject to the paramount consideration that at this time of economic stringency and war conditions, any speeches or actions designed or calculated to rouse bitterness amongst the communities or to embarrass the Government in their efforts must be guarded against."

GOVERNMENT ON DISPOSAL OF SUITS

With a view to eliminating delays in the disposal of suits in civil courts, the Travancore Government have decided that no increments should hereafter be granted in the cases of district judges, second judges and district munsifs as a matter of course. The Government will, as was done in the Punjab, and in consultation with the High Court, withhold all increments and promotions in the case of judges who do not whole-heartedly work for the elimination of arrears and delays. Government lay down certain tests to be considered in dealing with the increments of these officers.

Baroda**GIFT TO BENARES UNIVERSITY**

His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwad has offered to the Benares Hindu University a Foundation in the following terms:—

To perpetuate the revered memory of the late Maharaja Sir Sayaji Rao, Gaekwad of Baroda, who all the life was deeply interested in fostering the study of Indian culture to which the different races and religions of India have contributed, His Highness the Maharaja of Gaekwad of Baroda is pleased to make the annual endowment of Rs. 15,000 to the Benares Hindu University for the purpose of establishing a Chair to be called the Sayaji Rao Chair of Indian Culture and History and Fellowships to be attached to the Chair.

The donor believes with his illustrious predecessor that there is a distinct type of thought and life in India, which has been enduring through the centuries and which is India's greatest contribution to the world; in it, the Hindu and Moslem, the Christian and the Parsi find common ground. It will be the main function of the Professor and the Fellows to promote the cultural unity of India by means of scholarly publications and lectures. Such publications will be included in the Sayaji Rao Gaekwad Series to be inaugurated as part of this Foundation.

An annual report of the work done by the Foundation shall be furnished to the Government of Baroda. The Benares Hindu University has accepted the Foundation.

GIFT TO SPITFIRE FUND

Among the latest gifts gratefully acknowledged by the Minister of Aircraft Production, Lord Beaverbrook, for the purchase of aircraft are: H. H. Maharaja Pratap Singh, Gaekwar of Baroda's £50,000 for a flight of Spitfires and also one of £977 from Mr. Henri Hain of Cairo.

WOOLLEN INDUSTRY IN BARODA

The State has made a grant for the development of the woollen industry at Amreli. Shepherds and goatherds will be trained in the latest scientific methods of fleecing and other matters connected with the wool industry.

Cochin

CHRISTIAN SUCCESSION ACT

The Cochin Legislative Council at its meeting, on February 1, decided to circulate, to elicit public opinion, Mr. A. V. Moothedan's Bill to amend the Christian Succession Act, which seeks to provide for equal share to a son and daughter in the matter of intestate succession.

Mr. T. P. Poulse, opposing the Bill, said that abstract considerations of equality ought to play only a minor part in the important question of succession. The Christian community recognised the absolute powers of the owner of property to dispose of it as he pleased. It was necessary that the rules for intestate succession should be adapted to the tendencies of testamentary disposition and to suit the social and economic conditions of the community.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon, Law Member, explained that the Government proposed to remain neutral at that stage. It was necessary, they felt, that the majority opinion of the community should be taken before they decided their attitude, particularly because of the diversity of views expressed in the House. He advised the mover to circulate it for public opinion. Mr. Moothedan accepted the suggestion for circulation.

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

A review of the work of the Cochin Legislative Council, during the year ended the middle of August, shows that during the 26 days' sittings, the Council dealt with 42 Bills—24 official and 18 non-official—1,018 questions and 215 resolutions.

Nine adjournment motions were tabled and all but one were either ruled out or withdrawn after discussion.

Kashmir

RELIEF MEASURES IN SRINAGAR

The population of Srinagar is again threatened with scarcity of rice.

A Special Officer is now in Srinagar to deal with the situation. He has called tenders for the supply of rice, but it is believed that the dealers are not prepared to bring their stock in the market. To counteract this, the Government have issued another notification authorising the Governor of Kashmir to seize the stores of rice and *shali* wherever found and put them on sale in order to relieve the city population from the scarcity.

OVERCROWDING IN CENTRAL JAILS

The Report of the Jail Department for the year 1994-95 refers to the recurrence of overcrowding in the Central Jails. This trouble was aggravated with the impulse of more political prisoners. To remove this overcrowding, Government ordered the release of 186 prisoners who had served half or more than half of their sentences.

Indore

KIST REMISSION IN INDORE

Land revenue remissions amounting to 6'25 lakhs of rupees and the appointment of a standing finance committee, consisting of three officials and three non-officials, to advise the Government on financial matters for one year were announced at a special durbar held in Indore.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

His Highness the Maharaja of Holkar has approved of the appointment of a Standing Committee for Public Health and Education in accordance with the desire to associate the popular element with the Government.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

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Malaya

INDIANS IN MALAYA

• Indians in Malaya are determined to have a square deal. With this object in view they have joined in large numbers an organisation started to assist them in their efforts—the Central Indian Association. The President of the Association, Mr. N. Raghavan, addressing the general body meeting the other day at Kuala Lumpur, expressed its firm resolve never to be a party to the creation of a politically depressed Indian community. Nor would the Association, he made it plain, view unconcernedly large numbers of Indian men and women being brought to the country for developing its resources without their being accorded their rightful share in its prosperity. Deploping the condition of Indian labourers who are still paid only pre-war wages, Mr. Raghavan pointed out :

Experience has shown that prices may soar high, international quotas and releases may reach their peak, the prosperity of the industry may be seen reflected in good dividends, large reserves and ambitious schemes of development, but the wages of plantation labour display no sudden variation or improvement. It is peculiar variety of solipsism that makes some so unresponsive to the needs of their own Labour.

Mr. Raghavan added :

But conditions are heading for a betterment. At least that is our study of the situation. The need for full production and the absence of surplus labour as a result of the ban may in our view soon create a position when employers will have willy-nilly to concede some higher wages. They will then collectively recognise what many a fair-minded manager has individually realised that there is no magic in the figures of 50 cents and 40 cents which in the conception of some at least have long remained the high water mark of human achievement as far as an Indian worker's daily effort is concerned. Anyhow we shall not lose hope, but wait and see.

Criticising the Trade Union Ordinance and Enactment, Mr. Raghavan remarked : " We have grave doubt that Unions created under these laws may be but a machinery for the control of workers by employers."

Fiji

INDIAN EDUCATION IN FIJI

About 8,000 Indian boys and girls are attending schools in Fiji out of a total Indian populations of 85,000 in colony. Of this about 6,000 were boys and the rest girls, says the annual report of the Department of Education in Fiji, which was presented to the Legislative Council of the colony recently.

There are 64 assisted Indian schools in the colony receiving grants-in-aid, amounting to £6,500. The number on the roll of these schools is 5,804. There are seven un-assisted schools with 182 boys and 102 girls. There are seven Government Indian primary schools, and a provision has been made for the erection of a new girl's school. The course of instruction in Indian schools in Fiji is similar to that in Fijian schools except that Hindustani is the medium of instruction in the first four classes.

The interests in hand work is on the increase. A very fine exhibition of hand work was exhibited in the Suva Town Hall recently on the occasion of the Fiji teachers annual conference.

The first Indian immigrants arrived in Fiji in 1879, and the first school for Indians was established in 1899 when the late Hon'ble Badri Maharaj started a school at Wanuku. The first government school for Indians was established at Natabua in 1919. By 1980, the development of school education had proceeded upon an organised planning, and now most of the provinces in Fiji have got Indian schools of some type or other.

Trinidad

INDIANS IN TRINIDAD

There were over 181,000 Indians in Trinidad on December 31, 1939, and they owned nearly 114,000 acres of land, says the local Protector of Immigrants in his annual Report for the year 1939.

The principal crops grown are cocoa and sugar-cane, the largest acreage 50,188 being under cocoa and next largest 20,125 under sugar-cane.

Indians enjoy the same political rights and privileges as other sections of the Island population and follow practically the same occupations which include those of landlords, merchants, shop-keepers, dairy many peasant proprietors, professional men and civil servants. Three Indians continue to be elected members of the Legislative Council. The East Indian Advisory Board established in 1937, to advise Government on matters concerning the community functioned satisfactorily during the year.

South Africa

INDIANS IN NATAL

An inquiry into the social and economic condition of Indians in Natal will shortly be started by a Commission set up by the South African Institute of Race Relations in collaboration with the Natal University College. This will be the first full inquiry made among Indians.

The object is to provide facts on which a policy can be based by assessing the effects of the new social, economic and cultural forces upon them, evaluating the contribution which the Indian people make to the well-being of the country and considering what place they are to have in the political, economic, and other spheres of the state.

Ceylon

INDO-CEYLON TRADE

The aggregate value of Indo-Ceylonese trade in 1939-40 amounted to Rs. 8'20 lakhs as compared with Rs. 5'54 lakhs in the preceding year.

The principal items among imports into India from Ceylon are copra, coconut oil and tea, which taken together represented 68 per cent. of the imports from that country.

Imports of copra amounted to 85,700 tons (Rs. 68 lakhs) as against 44,500 tons (Rs. 61 lakhs) in 1938-39. Imports of coconut oil from 1'7 million gallons (Rs. 14 lakhs) to 2'6 million gallons (Rs. 29 lakhs).

Arrivals of tea declined from 291,000 lbs. to 248,000 lbs. The recorded value, however, remained stationary at Rs. 2 lakhs.

Among exports to Ceylon: rice, not in the husk, by far the most prominent item, was valued at Rs. 1'11 lakhs, showing a fall of Rs. 6 lakhs over the preceding year. Cotton piece-goods, the next principal item of export, showed a slight improvement and amounted to 28'5 million yards as compared with 18'9 million yards in 1938-39.

Exports of tea totalled 7 million lbs. as against 4 million lbs. and supplies of coal 407,000 tons as compared with 255,000 tons.

Out of a total of 358,000 cwts. of fish, excluding canned fish exported from India, 237,000 cwts valued at Rs. 36 lakhs were sent to Ceylon. Other important items of shipments were fruits and vegetables, chillies, oil-cakes, pulses and manures excluding oil-cakes.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



ALTERNATIVE TO SATYAGRAHA

Satyagraha was resumed after the Christmas truce along the same methodical lines chalked out by Gandhiji. Those acquitted hasten to court arrest again and again. The whole thing looks harmless enough, says the *New Review*, and some people wonder what Gandhiji can expect "from so orderly a disorder".

What developments he intends must be left to his recondite simplicity: what must be foreseen can be told from the usual working of mass mentality. The present quiet agitation carries the pacifist message to the masses and popularizes the issue; by this time even the humblest villager knows that something or other that concerns him is afoot. Gandhiji has declared that he intends no mass movement; yet there is mass information and propaganda; as the leaders are successively arrested, the crowds cannot help growing anxious and restless. Once the masses are roused, their behaviour escapes prediction and control. Though Gandhiji is the uncontested leader of the Indian masses to-day, will he be able to control them? They would not have been led to agitation against him or without him, but, once roused, will they be plastic in his hands? Will he not have to confess another 'gigantic failure' or one more 'Himalayan blunder'? A blunder and failure in the present circumstances might prove fatal, though one does not see how the *satyagraha* movement can hamper the British military effort so as to jeopardise a British victory or even how a failure could stifle national patriotism. Moreover has not Gandhiji promised not to embarrass the British Government? What is really at stake is the existence of Congress itself and Gandhiji's supremacy.

But so far Gandhiji keeps his hold on public opinion and the efforts of Mr. M. N. Roy to rally a few ex-Congressmen has failed to make any deep impression

on the electoral masses. For as the *New Review* observes:

Mr. M. N. Roy may be a live wire and many other things; he is losing whatever popularity he had. His was a poor choice as a leader and the eulogies heaped upon him by a certain section of the press can only embarrass him with Indian nationalists and the labouring classes. The best asset for the war effort in India lies in the natural abhorrence of masses for any extremist regime and the resentment of tropical people against any form of violence.

What then is the way out of the impasse? In the opinion of the writer, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru's proposal for a compromise between Gandhiji and Mr. Jinnah is "out of the question at present". For both are committed to definite views on fundamental issues: "India one and indivisible on the one hand, and the Pakistan scheme on the other."

A way out can only be found if Indian life can go on without Gandhiji or without Mr. Jinnah or without both. The best suggestion made so far is the boldest; to shift responsibility from England to India; to start a Dominion Government of some sort or other at Delhi by passing measures, as Dominions do, without reference to England to make the position clear not only in England but especially in India.

Provisional measures taken in an emergency are well along the lines of British constitutional development; creating precedents is what matters to realistic politicians and statesmen who find that war time is no season to draft academic constitutions. What is vital for the British Commonwealth of Nations and for the world is to secure a whole-hearted co-operation from the 400 million Indians to a cause which is of interest to the whole of mankind; what matters is a living system which would muster all the talent and all the resources of the country for the common undertaking; what is urgent is a working administration which is rooted in the soil and can draw whatever is in the soil for the world enterprise.

GANDHIAN DOCTRINE

"To be great is to be misunderstood," says an old adage. In spite of his best efforts to put the case for non-violence, his attitude of pacificism in the present war has been greatly misunderstood and misinterpreted. But as I. D. observes in the *Twentieth Century*: "It is one thing to say that the Mahatma has done no service to India or the cause of humanity by pushing his pacifist theory to the extreme and advising his countrymen to prefer silent submission to dictators to armed conflict with them; it is quite another to maintain that by the line he has taken up, he ranged himself on Hitler's side, as the *Statesman* has repeatedly done." Fairness requires that his critics should try to understand the implications of his philosophy.

The Gandhian doctrine admits of no 'final' surrender to wicked aggression but tends to overwhelm brute force with spiritual weapons. While it is legitimate to protest against the Mahatma's facile assumption that his prescription is enough insurance against the forces of evil, it is fantastic to interpret his teachings as a brief for Hitlerism. The *Statesman's* laboured argument that the Mahatma is an ally of Hitler, betrays a confusion of thought and a lamentable lack of realities. In its attempts to expose and ridicule "the fallacies of thought which are costing the Congress dear", the *Statesman* has committed a heap of them and regaled its readers with a regular fantasia. To its novel proposition that "he offers the British no token of friendship", the answer is that the Mahatma is himself a moving 'token of friendship'. Has he put his foot down on an honourable settlement? Has he not proved that if only the British arrived at an understanding with the Congress, he would if necessary step aside into his philosophic shell and allow it to pursue its own course?

NATIONAL DEFENCE

Edward Mead Earle, writing in the *Political Science Quarterly*, justifies the plea that the problems of national defence have a claim upon the political and social sciences. For the need of security against aggression is "the most powerful dictator of national conduct". It involves one of the most delicate of political problems—"the reconciliation of liberty and authority, the provision of the maximum degree of security with the highest degree of freedom". The world being as it is, "national defence is a basic function of government in a world of competitive national states".

The organization of defence is by no means the problem of the soldier alone.

Under parliamentary and representative government, particularly as exemplified by Great Britain and the United States, the control of military affairs by civilian authority has been one of the foundation-stones of the arch of freedom. This does not necessarily imply that there is any inherent conflict between two mutually antagonistic forces, civil and military. On the contrary, it is essential that there be effective collaboration between the civilian, military and naval authorities in the interest of maximum efficiency and, of co-ordinate importance, that there be adequate and intelligent military implementation of national policies.

There is ample evidence that civilians and soldiers alike have come to recognize that it is vital both to military efficiency and to national integrity that war and the costly and elaborate preparation for war shall not be reserved either to technicians alone or to civilians alone. The organization of security and, in the event of war, the organization of victory require that there be sympathetic, intelligent and unreserved collaboration between the several groups which contribute to the total military efforts. A blunt civilian Clemenceau said: "War is much too important a business to be left to the soldiers." A distinguished British officer, Sir Frederick Maurice, agreed that as war requires the employment of the whole resources and the maximum power of the nation, it is "clearly not a matter to be left to soldiers or sailors, nor would any responsible soldier desire it to be so left". The mere mention of the names Rathenau, Lloyd George and Baruch will suggest what civilian influence meant in the last war. Even in the realm of military technology, one can point to innumerable instances in which civilian contributions concerning even the employment of weapons of war—as well

as their invention, development and supply—were outstanding and sometimes controlling: this was notably the case in questions involving tanks, convoys, artillery fire, machine guns, etc.

What was true in the war of 1914-1918 is likely to be even more true in the present struggle.

No modern war can be waged without the national effort going far beyond the boundaries of technical military efficiency into almost every realm of civilian activity. The British and American officer of today is encouraged to widen his horizons of knowledge to include an understanding of social and economic questions. There is no reason, in turn, why the civilian should not bring military affairs, which so vitally affect the nation at large and even himself as an individual, into his purview. After all, military problems do not dwell in the realm of the occult, the supra-temporal, or the recondite, for "secrecy" is largely confined to [matters of material. Military problems are susceptible of analysis, criticism and practical contributions by informed laymen, and factual data upon which to base sound scholarship are generally accessible. Indeed, it is imperative that laymen, especially scholars, concern themselves with the problem of national defence, for failure to do so may be disastrous to the success of rearmament or of the war effort. Germany has become the foremost military power on the Continent of Europe not only because of the technical efficiency of German armed forces, but also because of acute realization of the role which theoretical studies of a non-technical character may play in modern war. Such studies existed in Imperial Germany but have been extended and intensified under the Nazis, with the result that Germany entered the present war well prepared in the non-military as well as the military phases of warfare. In fact, the "bloodless victories" which have distinguished the Hitler regime were the outgrowth of a long-range strategy which took into account all the known factors of economics, psychology, domestic politics, class prejudice, inertia, and the like. A covert war has been waged against Western Europe since 1933, with its victims seemingly unaware even that the struggle was going on. Comprehension of the true state of affairs was a civilian rather than a military responsibility.

As against German preparedness in which civilians in general and the universities in particular have played an influential part, British, French and American efforts seem feeble.

The result is attributable not merely to palatial leadership in London and Paris, but also to a fundamental failure to comprehend the intimate interrelationships of politics, economics, and military strategy. There has been a lamentable paucity of civilian discussion of geographic and demographic factors in international politics. There has been a good deal of muddle-headedness concerning elements of military power; potential

strength has been complacently confused with existing strength, although only the latter is available to initiate or to resist sudden and overwhelming attack. There has been woeful disregard of the strategic implications for Britain and France of the war in Spain.

There has in fact been virtually no informal *liaison* between civilians and soldiers in the democracies and even high placed British political leaders have been ignorant of the military view of the situation until the two wings of the states are co-ordinated for purposes of war.

Mutual suspicion between civilians and professional officers—which has been typical of Anglo-Saxon society, and which can be broken down only by continuous collaborative efforts in time of "peace" as well as in time of war—has prevented an over-all view of the situation, growing out of intelligent, wide-spread and frank discussion.

The truth of the matter is that, in a democratic society, it is imperative that we have the widest possible discussion of military problems, conducted on the highest possible plane. In the absence of such discussion, we cannot formulate intelligent and practicable foreign policies or, for that matter, domestic policies.

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SAROJINI NAIDU

The *Aryan Path* for February reminds us that India has overlooked the sixty-first birthday of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, which fell on the 18th of February last year. It now takes the opportunity to atone for that neglect by paying a well-merited tribute to her life and work "of great national value".

We can trace an analogy between her own experiences and those of the India she so passionately loves and so devotedly serves, says the writer.

The inner urge which has been directly instrumental in her service of India is the same force which moves other children of the Great Mother to feel and to express the beauty of harmless and helpful actions which put the stamp of nobility on the national character, as also to offer sacrifices on the altar of pure patriotism. That inner urge, that hidden force, common to both the Great Mother and this particular daughter proceeds from the pain and the anguish which the Soul undergoes in creating a new order, a new polity. It is the force of bodily suffering, of mental struggles, of heart-aches, which have enabled Sarojini Devi to create her poems as well as to labour for the political emancipation of India.

The service life of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu may be divided into two main compartments—her work as poet and then as politician. Her political activities seem to commence at the close of her poetical labours.

Both phases of that work are born of suffering, and therefore express a message for suffering India. To apply her own words to her poetry, her "bridal-songs and cradle-songs have cadences of sorrow". And it is equally true that Sarojini has incarnated the national pain within herself and so her voice and her words find an echoing response as those of India. In her have come to focus the forces which are throbbing in the heart of India. A daughter suffering as does the Mother, enduring as the Mother does while rising triumphant over pain to express beauty and

strength—such is Sarojini. India expresses beauty through suffering and sacrifice and that is the message which the life of Sarojini Naidu offers to us all.

There is much in Sarojini Naidu which is reminiscent of Shelley, and the writer aptly quotes a passage from her "Soul of India", which breathes the Shelleyan spirit of liberty and revolt.

But the climax of England's unconscious wrong to India lay in what was surely meant to be the crown of all her conscious benefactions, embodied in a system of education which, doubtless, flawless and fruitful within its own familiar province, was not merely unsuited but even inimical to the genius of our race. For, education to become the incorruptible living wealth of a nation must be self-evolved and an authentic expression of the national spirit. But this foreign education sold three generations of denationalized Indian youth into a blind intellectual bondage to the West. The old learning that had enriched, the old art that had illumined our daily life were disowned; the old music that had invoked enchantment, the old religious vision that had kindled inspiration were disclaimed and forgotten. The grave and lovely ceremonials and courtesies of our social inheritance were discarded in a lamentable and futile imitation of western ways the beautiful Puranic and Qu'ranic names of our children were torn from them in our slavish passion for western nomenclature.

Could the degradation of a subject-race, however temporary and transient, be more sudden, more tragic, more complete? . . . to be retrieved, effaced, atoned for by the tears or the blood of her children's sorrow and repentance.

But the high gods that guard the secrets of the future hold the balance true, and the final issues are secure. By some sacred law of recompense or reparation, it is decreed that India which has reached the nadir of her downfall under foreign domination shall rise again swiftly and safely to the zenith of her hope by the willing aid and in the inseparable companionship of the self-same race that has wounded her honour, crushed her pride, challenged her capacity and denied to her for so long the inalienable birth-right of individuals and nations—liberty, the very breath of life.

LIFE IN A DESTROYER

Mr. Douglas Macdonald Hastings gives an account of "Life in a Destroyer" in the *Picture Post*, London. The title "destroyer" was first given to vessels of 300 to 400 tons built in the nineties for the purpose of destroying small torpedo boats which, at that time, were a menace to capital ships. But the new class of vessels, instead of developing as torpedo boat destroyers, superseded their adversaries by becoming torpedo boats themselves.

A typical destroyer is nearly 200 men and 1,000 or more tons of lethal machinery packed in a steel case 330 feet long and 32 feet wide. One hundred and ninety men live, eat and sleep in a subdivision about the size of a couple of two-decker buses and about as uninviting as the inside of a boiler. Eight or ten officers eat and live in an iron box situated immediately above an ammunition magazine and sleep on the top of chests of drawers in cabins about the size of a taxi. The Commander has spacious quarters—two cabins and a bath—but, when the ship is at sea, he doesn't use them. He lives on the bridge, eats when he can and sleeps with his clothes on in a bunk by the wheel-house. Guns, torpedoes, depth charges, searchlights and machinery have the rest to themselves.

If heavy seas are running, the movement of the ship is such that even men inured to destroyer life become seasick. All the hatches are battened down in war time; ports and deadeyes are permanently closed at sea as a precaution against sudden attack, and any fresh air which seeps in through the ventilators into the crews' quarters brings the sea with it. Cooking becomes impossible. The crew reel about the decks with the aid of life-lines.

The destroyers of recent times are equipped, and it is interesting to know that

the armament of the different classes varies considerably. "Tribals" have eight 4.7 inch guns (ten to fifteen rounds of 50-lb. high explosive shells per gun per minute), four 21 inch torpedo tubes (effective up to five miles), high-tangle anti-aircraft guns, multiple "pom-poms" (2-lb. shell-firing machine guns to meet low-flying air attack) and depth charges to blow up submerged U-boats. Older types mount up to six 4.7-inch guns and up to ten torpedo tubes.

Every destroyer in the British Navy is equipped with the "Asdic", the wonderful instrument which searches out the U-boats as they lurk under the sea. No U-boat can lie so quietly on the bed of the ocean that it escapes the "Asdic's" notice.

NUDISM IN INDIA

Mr. Alex Peel writes to the *Orient Illustrated Weekly* on the above subject. He says that from time immemorial both men and women in this country had their special customs. While for the women it was mostly a complete covering for the body, men had only half-covering.

Even to-day there are some people, especially among the Hill Tribes, who still have leaf-covering. In Chotanagpur, Juang men and women move about with long soft leaves tied around them. Although many of the men among the Juangs have now begun to use small pieces of cotton, the women have not discarded the leaf-covering. Juang women believe that if they discard the leaves, they would be offending the River Goddess. There are other tribes in other parts of India who also move about in a semi-nude state. But most of these have come under the influence of cotton and they are quite willing to wear clothes if they could get them.

Neither Hinduism nor Mohamadanism encourages nudism. In fact, both are against it. Islam definitely discourages its members to show the human body above the knee. On the other hand, it encourages men and women to cover themselves completely.

Here in India, there is no movement to discard dress, but there is a movement to have more dress. The simplest dress among the advanced people of India could be seen in Malabar. Until quite recently, the loin cloth was the most common and popular dress among all sections of the people in that part. These were invariably white and were always kept neat and tidy as the social custom insisted on men and women to take their bath every day and wash their clothes. Among the women, it was quite common to cover only up to the waist. In fact, the women of certain castes were even socially forbidden to cover the upper part. In families that followed the matriarchal system, it was considered disrespectful for young women to appear before the senior members with any covering above the waist. Of course, these customs are now dying out. Yet even to-day many women walk about freely dressed only up to the waist.

In the West, nudism is practised for making the body beautiful. It is purely connected with a physical idea. It is a revolt against the too much dressed. But in India, nudity is forced by the economic causes.

WELLESLEY AND INDIAN POWERS

Mr. V. V. Joshi, analysing the real cause of British aggression under Wellesley on Indian powers, in the *Journal of the University of Bombay*, tries to find it in two facts: Firstly, the great weakness of Indian powers, whose nature and causes are explained in the next two sections that are to follow and, secondly, the internal geography of India. The internal geography of the country deprives Indian States of natural frontiers and their defence against each other becomes very difficult. At the same time it makes it incumbent on the strongest power in the country to carry on war until it brings the entire country under its sway. Indian historical development shows that perpetual war goes on in the country, unless either a foreign power conquers the land or a power rises in India which subdues all others. A void had been created in India by the anarchy of the 18th century after the fall of the Moghul Empire and an early extinction of Maratha nationalism. This void had to be filled and the Company was unquestionably the strongest power in India and, therefore, qualified to fill the void by subduing the entire country.

To sum up, the rise of the British power in India from a second-rate position to that of virtual paramountcy can be traced to the aggressive policy of Marquess of Wellesley. He justified his aggression by pleading that the Company's possessions in India were threatened by the French, the Tipoo Sultan and the Marathas. He overcame these dangers by a great increase in the political and military power of the Company accomplished

by a military overthrow of Tipoo and the Marathas. Moreover, he won over many subsidiary allies and made the Company a virtual successor of the Great Moghul. However, the grounds on which Wellesley justified his aggression were unsubstantial. The French had no chance of invading India without a command of the Sea and with the Continental Wars on their hands. In spite of his restlessness, the power of Tipoo was hardly equal to that of the Company, and he did not want to attack the Company. Finally, the Marathas, who were the strongest of Indian powers, had become too weak through discord, civil war, financial bankruptcy and poor leadership, to endanger the security of the Company.

POST-WAR ECONOMIC TRENDS

The two decades which lie between the end of the last war and the outbreak of the present one (1919-1939) represent an era of profound disturbance in the economic life of the world, observes Mr. R. Krishnamurthi, writing in the first Number of the new monthly, *Indian Commerce*, published by Mr. V. S. Rangaswami of Madras to perpetuate the memory of the great pioneer of commercial education, the late Mr. K. S. Aiyer of Bombay. Mr. Krishnamurthi asserts that "the dominant trend in the post-war world has been the triumph of nationalism over internationalism". The general character of the disturbance in economic life and thought, and the high degree of concord which obtains between theory and policy, can best be described as reaction against *laissez-faire* and drift in favour of far greater national State-control of economic life. The forces of nationalism gained a further accession of strength after 1939.

The present war again has unleashed the forces of nationalism and the combination of certain nations against certain others. All speculation into the coming post-war reorganisation apart, it seems certain that the task of constructive statesmanship consists in resolving the incompatibility between nationalism and internationalism. The task is not one so much for the economic theorist as for the practical politician.

YOUTH MOVEMENT IN AMERICA

A writer, in the *Newsweek*, (New York,) deprecates the separate movement for youth in that country as sinister. He continues:

Why should there be an American Youth Movement? What is there, in the name of Heaven, that sets youth apart politically? Do all young people have special political and economic interests common only to themselves? Do they constitute a 'natural' pressure group similar to those of labor, of the fruit growers, or of the bankers?

A national organization of people with a specific interest is created when there is a particular and well-defined thing that it wishes to keep or attain, by pressure for legislation or favorable public opinion. Hence we have veterans' groups, a Federation of Labor, a CIO or even an organization of women, as such—many different kinds of women, who nevertheless were banded together by a common interest, woman suffrage. By all means have such organizations. They constitute one of the means through which democracy can operate.

But youth! That's a different kettle of fish. Why a youth bloc any more than a middle-aged bloc? Are we to have separate movements for people in the thirties and forties and fifties? We already have old people's groups, but at least they base their coming together upon a specific economic demand and don't profess to be merely oldsters' movements.

For what purpose are the youth organized? Let's get down to reality. Youth movements here and abroad are actually political, devoted to the interest of some special political point of view. They are invariably directed by some minority—either violently radical or violently reactionary—that has no specific connection with youth, as such. They propagate wholly adult political ideas in the sweet name of youth.

It is time, concludes the writer, in a society whose unity is already rent at a hundred points to try to prevent further divisions.

We're all trying, or we say we're trying, to make a better country. Youth will inherit that country. There's no difference of purpose or interest here from the point of view of age. There should be no organized effort to create distinctions where no real distinctions exist.

GANDHIJI'S IDEALS

The January Number of the *Visvabharathi Quarterly* publishes extracts from the forthcoming publication of Dr. P. T. Raju entitled "The Idealism of Mahatma Gandhi". Dr. Raju asks:

Is Satyagraha true to facts? For every moral injunction the question may be raised: Is it according to reality? In non-philosophical language we ask: Is it according to nature? For, it is felt that no moral law is binding upon us if it is not based upon the nature of things. For, it is not morally binding upon man to fly with his hands in order to save some poor bird from the clutches of another. It is not morally binding upon a eunuch to be a father, though Manu declares that in order to pay off our debt to our forefathers (*pitṛna*), we have to be fathers.

To this question, Mahatma Gandhi, says the writer, comes out with an affirmative answer. For,

Satyagraha means moral activity according to reality. Fichte long ago developed his system of philosophy to meet the demand, that reality should be such as to meet the demands of the moral will. If the moral law is opposed to the natural law, the former cannot be binding on us. Hence the two spheres of morality and nature must ultimately agree with each other. Mahatma Gandhi can say that his Satyagraha is true to reality, because it exhorts us to hold on to Truth and this Truth is the Law of the world, its essential nature. It is the only Existence. Everybody who does not hold on to Truth, is thereby heading towards non-existence. The nature of this Truth, Mahatma Gandhi says, is Love. Hence if we are to realise the Truth, we should weed away all hatred from our hearts. But this weeding away of hatred does not involve passivity, for mere passivity would be yielding to untruth and allowing it to triumph. Hence we have to assert Truth, which is Love, in face of untruth. Provided we are sincere, Mahatma Gandhi has no doubts about the results.

CASTE IN THE RIG VEDA

Mr. V. M. Apté, writing in the *Bulletin of the Deccan College Research Institute*, discusses whether caste was the normal development of the ancient Aryan institutions and holds that the caste system and class divisions had taken very deep root in Aryan society in the Rig Vedic age. The phase of the fourfold social division embodied in the Purusha-Suktha existed even in the early Rig Vedic period in substance. He concludes thus:

"About the *Sudra* class, I have already mentioned my view that the class existed even in the early Rig Vedic period, though it is not mentioned more than once (or twice, if the word *Vrsala* in X. 84. 11d mean a *Sudra*, as it does in my opinion, in the *Rig Veda*). It consisted chiefly of artisans, mechanics, and servants. In Indo-Iranian times, as the evidence of the Avestan literature shows, there was the practice of taking the defeated enemies as slaves. It is noteworthy that the Rig-Vedic Aryans absorbed the vanquished foes and subjugated slaves from among the *Dasas* and the *Dasyus* into the fourth class, which must have degenerated owing to this absorption of people of different colour and culture. But one good effect of this absorption seems to have been the disappearance of slavery as an institution. This view of mine that the fourth or the *Sudra* class suffered a degradation in the course of the Rig Vedic age, satisfactorily explains the seemingly anomalous position of the *Rathakara* in post-Rig Vedic literature. The *Rathakara* must have belonged to the fourth class in the Rig Vedic and pre-Rig Vedic periods and there was no stigma attaching to his caste or profession then. Later, however, when owing to the absorption of foreign elements the fourth

class fell from its old position, there was hesitation in assigning the *Rathakara* to the *Sudra* class. The *Taittiriya Brahmana* (I. 1. 4. 8) places him in a special class alongside the *Brahmanas*, *Rajanyas* and *Vaisyas*, but the *Katyayana Srauta Sutra* ranks him as a *Sudra*.

To sum up then, *caste*, in my opinion, was not formulated in the *Rig Vedic age*. The Rig Vedic Aryans came with the fourfold vision into India. What happened in the long interval known as the Rig Vedic age was that the Aryans absorbed into their fold large numbers of people at various stages of culture with whom they clashed or came into contact. Their fourth class and to some extent even the third absorbed the largest proportion of these new accretions and in the process became degraded. The danger of this degradation spreading higher up led gradually to a hardening of *caste distinctions* which, in my opinion, was really all that happened between the early and the late, i.e., *Purusha-Sukta* periods of the *Rig Veda*."

INDIA IN PERIODICALS

- INDIA IN 1940. By M. Bauwens. [The New Review, January 1941.]
- THE SCREEN AS A TEACHER OF HINDUSTANI. By K. Ahmad Abbas. [The Aryan Path, January 1941.]
- INDIAN POLITICAL SITUATION. By P. Kodanda Rao. [The Ashram Review, January 1941.]
- PROGRESS OF ART IN INDIA. By O. C. Gangoly. [Modern Review, January 1941.]
- THE CEDED DISTRICTS, THE CIRCARS, AND THE NIZAM. By Diwan Bahadur T. Bhujanga Rao. [The Triveni Quarterly, Vol. XIII, No. 2.]
- PADMANABHAPURAM PALACE. By Dr. J. H. Cousins. [Travancore Information, February 1941.]
- LITERACY IN INDIA. By M. V. Danda, B.A. [The Social Service Quarterly, January 1941.]
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MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS

DEPARTMENTAL

NOTES

Questions of Importance

INDIAN TROOPS IN SUDAN

Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, in his first broadcast as Commander-in-Chief in India, paid a well merited tribute to the gallantry of the Indian troops abroad. Recounting his personal experience of a visit to the Indian troops in Sudan, His Excellency said :

In the Eastern Sudan, I was privileged to see a number of our Indian units, some of which had already fought at Sidi Barrani and others which had come direct from India. The Italians had not then withdrawn from Kassala and their other advanced posts, and our men, inferior in strength to the enemy, were strung out over an immense front, awaiting reinforcements before beginning their attack. In spite of their relative weakness in numbers, they and the Sudan Defence Force, which has greatly distinguished itself, were in complete control of No-man's-land, having entirely deprived the Italians of their initiative.

I can say at once that, although I have served continuously with Indian troops for over 38 years, I have never seen Indian units which looked happier, fitter or more on their toes. I saw men of many classes and it was the same everywhere.

The British units of whom there are many with the Force, seemed to me, in the light of my considerable experience with British troops at home, to be of the very best, tough and fit, and adapting themselves to the conditions of that wild country as only British soldiers can. The combination of the two services seemed to me about as perfect as it could be.

I came away with the most comforting and gratifying sense of efficiency, purpose and determination. Conditions are, of course, often uncomfortable and the work is hard and strenuous, but a soldier expects this. The men are well fed, well clothed and excellently looked after. There is no doubt that in the Sudan, we have a modern army excellently commanded and led, trained to war under modern conditions, very well able to look after itself in all circumstances, and ready to give much harder blows than it will receive. I was able to visit also Indian reinforcement camps in Egypt and Indian units guarding the Suez Canal and other important points in the rearward areas. Here, too, I found the same state of cheerfulness and efficiency in spite of the less interesting nature of the work.

Even at this moment they are winning fresh battle honours for their colours. On the eve of the latest brilliant victory in Libya, I received the following message from General Wavell:—

"Indian troops were amongst the early reinforcements to arrive in Egypt and have been maintaining the defence of that country ever since. This long period of defence was rewarded by their participation in the Battle of Sidi Barrani, in which the magnificent work of the Indian troops enhanced the already high reputation they had previously held. Since then, Indian troops have taken part in several important actions in the Sudan, culminating in the most brilliant pursuit from Kassala to Keren. In this action, the Indian troops have performed extremely good work in most difficult conditions."

The fact that our British Indian troops took a leading part in the victory of Sidi Barrani, the battle which started the Italian rout in Libya cannot fail to make us here in India tremendously proud of them. They have won golden opinions everywhere and it is for us to see that the troops which follow them overseas shall lack for nothing that they need to enable them to keep the same high standard. The driving of the Italians out of Africa is a most important step towards winning the war and it is good to think that India is playing a major part in this effort. Here in this country, we can best honour the gallantry and devotion of our Indian soldiers overseas by doing everything we can to help to win that complete victory which alone will restore peace and security. To-day Indian troops in North Africa are fighting side by side with British, Australian, New Zealand, South African and Free French Forces to destroy once and for all the threat to bring war to the shores of India from North Africa. Our duty to them is threefold. We must ensure that their efforts are not rendered in vain by any failures on our part to make this country, that is this great country of India, secure against direct attack from any direction. We must place ourselves in a position to give our men actually facing the enemy in the field the greatest possible assistance and support of which we are capable, in the form of trained reinforcements and supplies. We must also—and here I would particularly appeal to those who, for one reason or another, may not be able to take a direct part in the immense military and industrial effort on which India has embarked with such striking results—provide our men overseas with all the comforts and amenities we can to lighten the hardships they are enduring so cheerfully. Equally important to their comfort and peace of mind is the assurance that those they have left behind them are being watched over and that their homes are secure.

MR. AMERY ON THE INDIAN CRISIS

A repetition of his former declaration regarding the constitutional issue in India was made by Mr. L. S. Amery, the Secretary of State for India, in a broadcast talk on February 24, in the B. B. C. Series on "Matters of Moment". Mr. Amery stated that the break-down of the Constitution in the Congress-administered provinces was due

to the pretensions of the Congress Party, the largest and best organised party in India, not only to immediate and unconditional independence, but in the name of democracy to override the claim of other important elements of India's complex national life, the great Moslem community and the Indian States, in particular, to safeguard their position.

After reviewing the progress of India's war effort, Mr. Amery asked:

What of her place in the moral and spiritual sphere? What is the relation of British policy in India to the ideal for which we are fighting? What is India's reaction to this policy and where does she stand on the main issue of the great struggle? We are fighting to-day for those ideas of justice, of individual freedom and tolerance and of self-government, which are the living principles of the growth and development of the British Empire. The declared goal of our policy for India is the same freedom as that which is enjoyed by the Dominions, or by ourselves, for that matter, as equal partners in the British Commonwealth or family of nations. There is no greater freedom, no higher status in the world. A far-reaching advance towards that goal was made in the Act of 1935. That Act is still in operation to-day in four Indian provinces—Bengal, the Punjab, Assam, and Sind. In these provinces, with a population of eighty-eight million, Indian Ministers responsible to democratically elected parliaments are most closely concerned with the daily life of their country.

Continuing, Mr. Amery said:

If that (India) Act has broken down in seven other provinces and has not been put into effect at a Federal Centre, that is not because it was unworkable, but in the main because at the pretensions of the Congress Party, the largest and best organised party in India, not only to immediate and unconditional independence, but in the name of democracy to override the claims of other important elements in India's complex national life, the great Moslem community and the Indian States in particular, to safeguard their own position. It was to meet that situation that His Majesty's Government have made it clear that while they are prepared to give effect at the earlier possible moment after the war to a new constitution shaped in consonance with Indian conceptions, it must be a constitution based—as all federal constitutions elsewhere have

been based—on agreement between the main elements in India's national life. It is against that insistence upon agreement that the Congress Party are at this moment carrying on a campaign of protest in the shape of speeches deliberately calculated to interfere with India's war effort.

If this campaign strikes a jarring note, it does not affect the universal detestation in which all shades of Indian opinion, including the Congress, hold Nazi and Fascist dictatorship, or the general desire of all India to see the victory of our cause. It does not affect the eagerness of recruits to come forward to serve in that cause. It does not affect the generous enthusiasm with which all classes of the Indian society have contributed to every fund connected with the war. Least of all does it affect the settled purpose of His Majesty's Government to help India to overcome those internal differences, which are the real obstacle to her progress towards the goal of free and equal partnership in the British Commonwealth. The attainment of that goal will mark not only the noblest achievements both of Indian and of British statesmanship, but the throwing of a bridge between Europe and Asia, which may mean much for the future peace and happiness of mankind. That would, indeed, be conclusive vindication of all for which we and India are fighting to-day.

SIR GIRJA ON WAR AND CULTURE

In a recent talk broadcast from the A. I. R. Delhi, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai asked: "Is war consistent with culture?" and answered as follows:—

As an instrument of aggression—No; as the last resort of self-defence—Yes. If culture is the fruition of the human spirit, it is worth preserving even at the price of war. But culture is not spread by the sword, nor has it any element of arrogance in it. It recognises the infinite possibilities for good of the human spirit and the evil of suppressing any of them. That is why national cultures may be different and healthily competitive, but ought not to be mutually hostile. Were it otherwise, those professing to be cultured would be neither tolerant nor sympathetic nor understanding; in other words, they would not be truly cultured.

To sum up, culture is no other than the flowering of man's spirit; nourished by experience, coloured by sympathy, quickened by intelligence, neither aloof nor austere, nor other-worldly, but gracious and kindly and deeply human, not inert, but active like light in its radiance of brightness and warmth, company in solitude and at ease in company, wise counsellor in difficulty, and a source of solace in sorrow, strength in danger, fortitude in privation, comfort in adversity. You will be familiar with some words of Hamlet that I shall quote to you: "What a piece of work is man, how noble in reason, how infinite in faculties, in form and moving, how express and admirable, in action how like an angel, in apprehension how like a God." That, in sum, is the picture of what culture can make of man.

MR. SASTRI ON DOMINION STATUS

The Rt. Hon. Sastri, presiding over a meeting of the National Liberal Party addressed by Mr. V. N. Chaudharkar, President of the National Liberal Federation, at Madras, observed in the course of his concluding remarks:

"When Dominion Status for India was first mentioned several years back, some thought that the rising tide of Indian nationalism would be stemmed by stipulating beforehand that the Dominion Status that India could aspire to was that of the Westminster variety. The point in evolution, which Dominions reached at that time in 1919 was, by these narrow-minded statesmen, prescribed as a point beyond which India should not aspire. That mistake they should no longer give room for anybody to make. They ought to take care that the Dominion Status, which they asked for, was Dominion Status not necessarily of the Westminster variety, but that future Dominion Status to which all people were looking forward, that further stage of Dominionhood towards which, Canada, South Africa, and Eire might evolve. It was necessary to state this; for already he knew that as a matter of fact some legalist politicians in England had put forward the theory that if India wanted the Westminster variety of Dominion Status, she might have it. But Canada or Australia were no longer content with it. South Africa had already decided to shake it off. Eire had almost transcended the shackles imposed on her by that statute."

"We should take care," Mr. Sastri added, "in our statements that when we say Dominion Status, we mean not Dominion Status of the 1926 variety, but that form of Dominion Status to which Dominions are moving forward and which they will get at the end of the war when inter-Dominion relations are revised. When Liberal statesmen talk of Dominion Status, our friends of the Congress persuasion, wishing to show that we are in the wrong, always say: 'You fellows will never cease to be old fashioned. Canada and Australia are already overstepping the limits of Dominion Status and you are thinking of Dominion Status when everybody else has dropped it.' That is the way in which we are being criticised, because we always mentioned Dominion Status of the 1926 variety. Unfortunately such a statement has crept into one of the official pronouncements also. It has, therefore, acquired a certain political authority. But we are not bound by it and we ought to express our clear determination that if

we find at the end of the war that what is now described as Dominion Status is overstepped and a further stage in evolution is reached, it must be open to us to demand that further stage provided we are persuaded that it is advantageous to us. But some things may be advantageous to some Dominions and not to others. Not everything that is included in the word 'Dominion Status' is accepted by all Dominions. We must have the privilege, therefore, of going forward beyond the Dominion Status of the Westminster variety when other Dominions do so, in so far as we find that further progress will be advantageous to us."

PAKISTAN SCHEME DEPLORED

"An appeal to his countrymen, particularly the younger generation, to rise above communalism and work for unity, which alone could bring them freedom," was made by Sir Sikander Hyat Khan, Premier of the Punjab, addressing a students' gathering at Lahore in connection with the celebration of the Beasant Festival, which marks the advent of Spring.

Sir Sikander deplored Pakistan and Khalistan and other such like schemes and reiterated that in the Punjab there could be no other Government except that of the Punjabis."

PLEA FOR EXPANDED COUNCIL

That the Government should take an initiative by inviting leading public men who are willing to co-operate with them in their war efforts to assume the responsibility for the administration of the Central Government, is urged in a resolution passed by the Working Committee of the All-India Hindu League which met at Delhi, Mr. M. S. Aney presiding.

The Committee urge upon the Government "to proceed forthwith with the formation of an Expanded Council consisting purely of non-official Indians representing important elements in the national life of the country and place at least one of them in charge of the Defence Department".

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

Speaking at the prize distribution of Union Academy, Delhi, on February 2, Sir Maurice Gwyer, Chief Justice of India and Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University, referred in detail to the reorganization of university education in Delhi and the part that secondary schools should play in future. He referred to the proposal made on behalf of the Delhi University and accepted by the Government of India, that the University's degree course should as soon as possible become a three-year course instead of two, and said the acceptance of this proposal will necessarily involve the reorganization, to some extent, of the secondary education system in Delhi. A secondary school education was not necessarily a prelude to entering a university, he pointed out. Boys and girls ought to leave the secondary school with a sufficient equipment of knowledge.

Proceeding, Sir Maurice Gwyer said :

There seem to me to be three avenues along which a schoolboy may have it in mind to proceed, one leading to the university, one to some kind of technical institute, and the third to a general training for his after-school life. The kind of education which he will require for each of these purposes is different and therefore I think that he should be given an opportunity some time before he would be leaving school in the normal course to make up his mind along which avenue he would desire to proceed.

In the majority of cases it will have to be the parents or guardians who make the choice, guided no doubt by the boy's own character or inclinations. A system such as this will require a differentiation in curriculum and examinations at an earlier stage than at present and that seems to be another reason for extending the length of the school course.

I hope you will not suppose that I am advocating a premature specialization in secondary schools. That would be a disaster indeed. But to give a cultural education, conceived on broad and generous lines, a bias in one direction rather than another cannot be called specialization. There are, or ought to be, certain elements common to every system of education, fundamentals which should become part of the intellectual apparatus of every educated man.

CHILDREN OF SCHEDULED CLASSES

That the Government of Bombay had issued explicit orders that no discrimination should be observed with regard to the admission and joint seating of Scheduled Classes children in common schools, has been revealed in the Annual Report on the working of the Backward Classes Department, Government of Bombay, for the year 1939-40, just published. These orders, the Report adds, are being observed in the majority of schools in the Province.

A sum of Rs. 6,500 in all was sanctioned during the year under report to the four Provincial Harijan Sevak Sanghs for carrying on their educational activities among the Scheduled Classes. These grants were sanctioned specially for the spread of literacy among the Scheduled Classes, but the Harijan Sevak Sanghas were also allowed to spend one-third of these grants for doing educative propaganda for the eradication of untouchability. The total amount sanctioned as grants-in-aid to the different hostels in the year under report was Rs. 42,776 as against Rs. 27,849 during the previous year.

CHANGE IN SCHOOL HOURS

The Bihar Government have decided to change the working hours in schools and colleges so as to suit the climatic conditions of the Province. According to the new proposals, the academic year will commence in January instead of June.

DR. C. R. REDDY

The Inter-University Board of India has, in the vacancy of the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, elected Dr. C. R. Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University, as its representative on the Central Advisory Board of Education.

A JUDGE'S STRICTURES

"To sentence a young man to one year's rigorous imprisonment for talking with an ex-detenu for five minutes, not anything which might be prejudicial for the defence of India, it being more than probable there was nothing objectionable in the talk, as their meeting was purely casual and as they were talking to each other on a public thoroughfare, strikes me as outrageously severe and the sentence must be reduced," observed Mr. S. N. Guha Roy, I.C.S., District and Sessions Judge, disposing of the appeal by Mr. Kamaniyakusum Das Gupta, an ex-detenu against the sentence passed by Mr. A. K. B. Karim for violating the restrictive order by talking to an ex-detenu. The Sessions Judge upheld the conviction and reduced the sentence to one month.

Mr. Guha Roy further observed that sentences like this tend to bring the application of the Defence of India Rules into disrepute and the sooner the Magistrates trying these cases see the folly of such sentences, the better for all concerned.

A AND B CLASS PRISONERS

The distinctions in treatment between A class and B class prisoners, except as regards the provision of furniture, have been removed by the Madras Government.

Following complaints about the treatment of "B" class prisoners, Government examined the whole problem and have decided to remove all distinctions in treatment between prisoners of the two classes, except in regard to the provision of furniture. The accommodation in Jails being limited, it is not possible to allow "B" class prisoners to use furniture—a concession which will continue to be enjoyed by "A" class prisoners.

HIGH COURT AND THE SPEAKER

That the Speaker "was guilty of deliberate and flagrant disobedience of the law" was one of the findings of Mr. Justice Dunkley in the case brought by Mr. U. Aye, Home Minister, against the Speaker for a declaration that the Minister was and still is a member of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Justice Dunkley recalled a judgment of the High Court in a similar case brought against the Speaker and observed that "laws are made by the British Parliament and the local Legislature and are interpreted by this Court from the law of the land which every inhabitant is bound to obey so far as it affects him," and added: "My learned brother's interpretation of the law was and is still binding on the defendant, who nevertheless once decided the very matter which he knew that he was prohibited by law from deciding."

The case which is the third suit of this nature before the High Court, is the outcome of some members of the House of Representatives having accepted Commissions in the Army.

DEFENCE RULES AMENDED

A number of Defence of India Rules have been amended by a Notification published on February 14, so as to provide that any one contravening them shall be punishable with imprisonment or fine or with both. The effect of the present wording of the penalty clauses of the great majority of the Rules is that it is not legally admissible for a sentence of fine to be imposed with a sentence of imprisonment, substantive or nominal, being passed at the same time. For certain offences, a sentence of fine without the addition of imprisonment is manifestly appropriate and to this end the Rules have been amended.

LIFE INSURANCE IN INDIA

The Blue Book of Indian Insurance business gives figures for 1988, that is to say, the period before the war. It reveals that during 1988 the total new life insurance business written in India amounted to a total sum assured of Rs. 51 crores and 72 lakhs, of which the share of the Indian Companies was Rs. 48 crores and 80 lakhs. As compared with this, the total new life business written in India by Indian companies, during 1987 was Rs. 89 crores and four lakhs. There was a comparable increase also in the amount of new life business written outside India by Indian companies, the amount of such business being Rs. 8 crores and 89 lakhs in 1988 as compared with Rs. 2 crores and 70 lakhs in 1987. Thus the total sum assured under life insurance policies sold by Indian companies in India and outside during 1988 amounted to Rs. 46 crores and 69 lakhs—a figure which formed the apex of a steadily rising column.

RURAL INSURANCE IN HYDERABAD

A beginning has been made in the Hyderabad State to make the villager insurance-minded and steps are being taken to spread the blessings of insurance to rural areas. A fair measure of success has attended the efforts in this direction of the Hyderabad Co-operative Insurance Society, which was established in 1845 Fasli (1886 A.D.) During the four years of its existence, the Society has issued 4,452 policies of the total value of Rs. 86,68,945. The number of claims paid till the end of the last year was 10, involving a sum of Rs. 6,065. Of the total number of policies issued by the

Society, 85 were claimed by rural areas, the sum involved being Rs. 68,820.

With a view to giving further impetus to the scheme of rural insurance, Government have sanctioned Rs. 10,000 to be paid in three annual instalments, to be spent on organizational work for securing insurance business from agricultural classes. The Society has also contributed an equal amount for the same purpose.

The Society has also been devoting its attention to the question of providing facilities for mental employees of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, to enable them to share the advantages accruing from insurance. The number of policies issued to the menials under Municipal employ at special rates stands at 1,054, the total value being Rs. 1,10,796.

RELIEF TO INSURANCE COMPANIES

Certain concessions to young proprietary life insurance companies are contained in Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar's bill passed by the Central Assembly on February 14, to amend the Insurance Act so as to provide for the reduction temporarily of the amounts payable as instalments of the sum deposited by an insurer under Section 7 of the Act.

The need for the concessions had arisen, it was explained, because as a result of failing business and lapsing of policies due to war conditions; these young companies were finding it difficult to pay the fixed amounts of the deposits and were, therefore, in need of some relief.

Mr. Chapman Mortimer and Prof. Bannerjee supported the Bill, while Mr. Nauman opposed it. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai had amendments seeking *inter alia* to confine the concession to companies of less than 10 years' standing but he did not press them.

TRADE WITH THE STRAITS

India's trade with the Straits Settlements showed an improvement in 1939-40, the value of imports and exports having advanced from Rs. 4'18 lakhs and Rs. 2'17 lakhs to Rs. 4'82 lakhs and Rs. 2'74 lakhs, respectively.

India's imports from the Straits Settlements consist largely of spices, oils and tin unwrought. The aggregate value of the imports of spices amounted to Rs. 1'48 lakhs, betel-nuts alone amounting to Rs. 1'86 lakhs. Under oils, imports of coconut oil amounted to 7 million gallons as compared with 5'2 million gallons previously, while imports of mineral oils amounted to 14'1 million gallons as against 7'8 million gallons in 1938-39. Purchases of tin unwrought also advanced from 48,000 cwts. in the preceding year to 68,000 cwts.

The principal items of India's exports to the Straits Settlements consist of cotton piece-goods and gunny bags, both of which showed improvement. Exports of cotton piece-goods, chiefly coloured, totalled 28 million yards valued at Rs. 78 lakhs as against 17 million yards valued at Rs. 52 lakhs in the preceding year.

The number of gunny bags exported rose from 5'6 million to 10'6 million, the value rising from Rs. 18 lakhs to Rs. 21 lakhs.

TRADE COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRALIA

The Government of India have decided that New Zealand will be included in the charge of the newly-created post of Indian Trade Commissioner in Australia.

Mr. R. R. Saksena, the Trade Commissioner-designate, is expected to proceed to Australia shortly.

INDIA'S TRADE WITH S. AMERICA

There was a substantial improvement in India's trade with the South American countries in 1939-40. The aggregate value of imports amounted to Rs. 5 lakhs as against Rs. 8 lakhs in the previous year. India purchased fairly large quantities of nitrate of soda from Chile valued at Rs. 4 lakhs. Arrivals of mica from Brazil and Argentina amounted to about 1,200 cwts. On the export side, India supplied, as usual, jute bags and cloth, exports of which were valued at Rs. 3'99 lakhs as compared with 8'18 lakhs in 1938-39. Argentina took 1'6 million gunny bags valued at Rs. 9 lakhs; Chile 7'8 million bags valued at Rs. 20 lakhs; and Peru 8'8 million bags valued at Rs. 81 lakhs. Shipments of gunny cloth to Argentina amounted to 217 million yards. Exports to Peru and Uruguay were comparatively small and amounted to 8'6 million yards and 14'2 million yards respectively. Brazil took 84,000 tons of raw jute as against 25,000 tons, while Argentina took 15,700 tons as against 10,500 tons in the preceding year. Chile took 21,000 lbs. of tea as against 8,000 lbs. in 1938-39.

PROTECTION FOR ALUMINIUM

The Government of India by a resolution announce that in view of the fact that the production of aluminium in this country is an urgent war necessity, the Government of India are pleased to give an assurance to all who wish to undertake the manufacture in India that, provided their affairs are conducted on sound business lines, they will be given such measure of protection against unfair competition from outside India after the war as may be necessary to enable them to continue their existence.

WOMEN'S POLITICAL CONFERENCE

"Every possible assistance" to the constructive programme of the Congress was promised by the Delhi Women's Political Conference, which was inaugurated by Mrs. Asaf Ali on February 9.

The Conference resolved that in order to fulfil the object of giving greater impetus to the constructive programme of the Congress as outlined by Mahatma Gandhi, Women's National Service Committees should be formed wherever such organisations do not already exist and called upon the politically-minded women of Delhi to form such a committee.

By another resolution, the Conference welcomed the stress laid by Mahatma Gandhi on certain vital economic and social aspects of national problems in his Satyagraha campaign and assured him that all national Indian women would devote their energy to the use and sale of hand-spun and hand-woven cloth.

BRITISH WOMEN'S APPEAL

A letter to the *Times* over the signatures of 28 well known women makes an appeal to the Government for a new approach to the Indian situation. The letter says: "The present situation in India has been brought home forcibly to us by reason of the imprisonment of some leading members of the All-India Women's Conference—Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit for example. With this Conference during past years, many of us have had close and vital connection.

We are fully aware of India's generous help to the War effort in terms of men, material and money. But alongside this comes the disturbing news of the imprisonment of outstanding national

leaders. We feel that this is not the time to go into the rights and wrongs that have brought about the impasse. A new approach must be made. A new atmosphere must be created.

In this connection, we welcome the news from India that an effort is being made by Indians themselves to end this disastrous situation. Cannot the British Government on their side make it possible by releasing political prisoners for men and women to meet together with a determination never to separate until an acceptable formula is found. We believe a solution can be found and we urge the British Government to co-operate in this effort to solve the constitutional deadlock."

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO PROPERTY

The Government of India are appointing a Committee with Sir B. N. Rau, a Judge of the Calcutta High Court as Chairman, to examine the question of Hindu Women's Right to Property, especially under the law of inheritance. Other members will probably be two eminent lawyers well versed in Hindu law. An official announcement regarding the personnel and terms of reference is expected shortly.

WOMEN FOR ARMAMENT INDUSTRY

Large-scale transfer of women workers from peace-time industry in Britain has begun. In Leicester, women hosiery operatives, clerks and warehouse staffs are to be released almost immediately for work in armaments industry elsewhere. A census of all workers in the hosiery industry in Leicester is to be taken this month and each manufacturer will be called upon to supply a quota of women employees.

NAZI BOMBS AND BOOKS

The book trade has suffered severely as a result of London's great fires.

A number of well-known publishing houses, formerly huddled together in the City's side-streets and alley-ways, have been completely gutted. But it was at Stationer's Hall Court, the home of the book distributing trade that the most incredible damage occurred.

It is now revealed, says the *Statesman*, that between three and four million books have gone up in flames; among them at least a thousand irreplaceable titles. In fact, when the staff arrived on the morning after the fire and found the premises burned out, not a page of uncharred copy remained. The stocks at Stationer's Hall ranged from the most obscure medical books to the most popular novels, carrying out the basic policy that when the man-in-the-street walked into a bookshop and asked for what might be an obscure title of any sort, the bookseller put it on his daily order form and Stationer's Hall looked it out from their stocks and supplied a copy.

But apparently it takes more than enemy vandalism to destroy other than temporarily one of our proudest heritages. Immediately publishers as a body unanimously decided to give all the help possible and the business of Stationer's Hall has now been taken over by the publishing trade as a whole, as it is the publishers' determination that a vital link between them and the retail trade world shall not fail.

MR. GANDHI'S STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS

After nearly six hours' discussion, the Standing Committee of the Newspaper Editors' Conference unanimously passed the following resolution proposed by Mr. P. D. Sharma and seconded by Mr. Francis Low:—

The Standing Committee is glad to know that the authorities appreciate the importance of Mahatma Gandhi's position in the public life of this country and the interest which attaches to his utterances and statements. It, therefore, requests the Government ordinarily not to ban publication of statements issued by Mahatma Gandhi, and in cases where they are inclined to take such a step they should consult the Central Press Advisory Committee before passing any orders thereon.

JINNAH-HUQ CORRESPONDENCE

The Huq-Jinnah correspondence is a revealing document. It shows how dissatisfied Mr. Huq is at the present state of affairs.

Referring to the present constitution, he says, it is absolute rubbish in as much as it gives all the powers to the Governors and the Governor-General and all the responsibilities to the Ministers. And he pleads: "Do please try to bring about a solution which will enable India to march forward."

But Jinnah is adamant. Huq's letter reveals that he is still uncertain as to the League's goal—whether it should be Pakistan. Neither does Jinnah throw any light on this. He is content with his present obstructionist policy.

MR. HENDERSON ON HITLER

When Hitler has nothing more to offer the Germans, when he realises that he has been cheating the people, he will scuttle himself as he scuttled the *Graf Spee*.

This is the opinion of Sir Neville Henderson, British Ambassador in Berlin, at the outbreak of the war.

At a meeting at Oxford recently, Sir Neville said: "When I left Germany, the two real leaders of Nazism were Himmler—the evil genius of Germany—and von Ribbentrop. Hitler is no longer the leader of Germany. I do not think he is responsible for anything the Germans have done. All Hitler has is faith. Plans are brought to him and he simply has faith enough to say 'go ahead'."

R. B. TILAK GIVES UP FAST

Mr. R. B. Tilak, who was on hunger-strike from January 12, broke his fast on February 8 at 8 p.m. by taking orange juice. Mr. Tilak told the *Associated Press* that he gave up his fast on "receipt of communication from Sardar, Vallabhbhai Patel, Messrs. B. G. Kher, ex-Premier of Bombay, and Mr. K. M. Munshi, who are undergoing imprisonment in connection with satyagraha through Mr. Kher's son, to the effect that they would look into his case after their release from jail,

CHEAP CURE FOR RHEUMATISM

Faced with rheumatism, the scourge of armies, British army doctors have found how to give to sufferers first-class treatment with the most primitive of apparatus. Rheumatic conditions call for three forms of treatment: rest, warmth, and purgation.

Under normal circumstance, rest is given in the beds of hospitals; warmth from elaborate medicinal bathing establishments. Now in the field treatment quite as efficacious is provided by placing the patient in an ordinary canvas chair, wrapped in an army blanket with a copious stream of steam from a pipe led under his wrappings from a Primus stove.

Next, mud is mixed with olive oil and glycerine to form packs and sand is baked in pails and applied to the affected parts.

These primitive methods of field medicine have yielded results that compare favourably with those obtained under the best conditions of peace-time civilian medical treatment.

SOAP PERFUMES

Ionone and other perfumes used by the manufacturers of soap and scents will shortly be made on a semi-manufacturing scale in this country.

The Government of India have sanctioned a grant of a sum of Rs. 2,800 to Dr. M. N. Goawami of the Department of Applied Chemistry of the University College of Science and Technology, Calcutta, for the preparation of ionone and other perfumes from lemon grass oil, which is found abundantly in India.

DENTISTS TRAINED IN INDIA

The decision of the authorities to recruit dental surgeons trained in India for military service has opened up a new career for these surgeons.

It is learned here that the Selection Committee have so far selected eight persons for emergency commissions in the Indian Medical Service (Dental branch), their terms of appointment and service being the same as that of the Indian Medical Service. This is the first time that dental surgeons trained in India are being recruited for work with the Army.

FASTING

Fasting is as necessary as selection and restriction in diet, observes Mahatma Gandhi in "My Experiments with Truth". So overpowering are the senses that they can be kept under control only when they are completely hedged in on all sides from above and from beneath. It is common knowledge that they are powerless without food and so fasting undertaken with a view to control of the senses is, I have no doubt, very helpful. With some, fasting is of no avail, because assuming that mechanical fasting alone will make them immune, they keep their bodies without food, but feast their minds with all sorts of delicacies, thinking all the while what they will eat and what they will drink after the fast terminates. Such fasting helps them in controlling neither palate nor lust. Fasting is useful when mind co-operates with starving body, that is to say, when it cultivates a distaste for the objects that are denied to the body. Mind is at the root of all sensuality. Fasting, therefore, has a limited use; for a fasting man may continue to be swayed by passion.

EAT MORE GUR

According to Ayurvedic texts, the use of *gur* regulates digestion and promotes vigour, observes Mr. R. L. Chaturvedi till lately Registrar, Co-operative Societies, U. P. It cures consumption and asthma, relieves urinary troubles and vitalises the heart. Some authors have spoken very highly of its medicinal properties. There can be no two opinions about the superiority of clarified *gur*; but the mill-made sugar which is crystal clear, loses glucose and some essential vitamins. It is time to launch a vigorous 'eat more *gur*' campaign.

DR. S. RAGHAVENDRA RAO

The Syndicate of the Calcutta University has decided to admit Dr. S. Raghavendra Rao, of the Hyderabad State Medical Service, to the degree of Doctor of Science in Public Health. Dr. Rao's thesis, which was based on his work on certain aspects of the epidemiology of plague, was highly commended by the examiners appointed to adjudicate on the same.

A NEW MINT AT CALCUTTA

It is understood that the Government of India have decided to construct forthwith a new mint at Alipore, Calcutta.

It is explained that as the result of the war, the coinage demand in India has increased enormously, resulting in heavy strain on the existing mints at Bombay and Calcutta.

The Calcutta mint building over 100 years' old has an extremely congested lay out and is no longer suitable for modern requirements. Further, much of the plant is very old, almost worn out. It is, therefore, proposed to erect a new mint for silver coinage in the first instance.

The mint will have a capacity of six lakhs of rupees per day working normal hours, or approximately 12 lakhs of rupees per day working full overtime.

As soon as the situation returns to normal, it is proposed to close down the Calcutta mint and to extend the new mint so that nickel and bronze coins may also be struck there.

NEW RUPEE COINS

The new rupee coins consist of half silver and half alloy. The old coins contained 165 grains of silver and 15 grains of alloy. The new coins will contain 90 grains of silver. We are told that it is wasteful to keep the silver content of the rupee so high. If that is so, then why not make rupees out of copper or brass, asks "Economics" in the *Bihar Herald*. What is wrong then with paper rupees? Obviously public confidence is a factor to be reckoned with and this is likely to be shaken by a debasement of the rupee. Habit and education, however, may soon overcome the initial distrust. The new rupee has a security edge—a very complicated design. The Government intend to make it knave-proof. But the Government have forgotten one thing. The more complicated the security design, the more readily are suspicions likely to be aroused by any real or fancied deviations from it. When the new rupee gets a little worn out, its circulation is likely to be greatly hampered by all manner of unwarranted suspicions.

RAILWAY BUDGET

Railway estimates presented by Sir Andrew Clow in the Legislative Assembly on February 19 forecast for 1940-41 a surplus of 14'59 crores against a surplus of 8'29 crores originally estimated and for 1941-42, a surplus of 11'89 crores.

Revised estimate of surplus on railways for 1940-41 is more than the actual surplus of last year by about 10½ crores. Total traffic receipts of State-owned lines are expected to reach 109½ crores, about 11½ crores more than last year and 6½ crores more than the original estimate. Total working expenses, including, 12½ crores for depreciation, are a little below 66½ crores, or about 1½ crores more than last year. The surplus expected is 14'59 crores. The balance in the depreciation fund will stand at a little over 85 crores.

Budget estimate for 1941-42 assumes traffic receipts of 108½ crores, 1 crore less than in the current year. Total working expenses will amount to a little less than 68½ crores and will be about 2 crores more than the current year. The surplus is expected to be 11'89 crores. Balance of depreciation fund at the end of the year will be about 41 crores.

TICKETLESS TRAVELLING

The Assembly discussed Sir Andrew Clow's Bill to tighten the law dealing with ticketless travelling as reported upon by the Select Committee.

The Bill, said Sir Andrew, did not seek to introduce any new principle. The provision to deal with ticketless travellers already existed in the Railway Act, and the Bill only made the punishment for the offence more stringent.

S. I. RAILWAY

At a meeting of the South Indian Railway Advisory Committee in Madras, Mr. J. F. C. Reynolds, Agent and General Manager, who presided, said that fresh efforts would be made by the railway administration, as desired by the Committee, to remove the beggar nuisance and the Superintendent, Government Railway Police, would be requested to give the greatest possible assistance to the railway staff in that connexion.

THE ARTIST

The artist, writes Mr. Asoka Guha, suffers from split personality in his work of art. He emerges out as artist the first with art for his own sake; artist the second comes next with art for the people's sake; last of all artist the third ushers in with art for art's sake as his motto; and the work of art is complete.

Art for the people and art's sake snatch away their laurels every time a picture is put to the test, but art for artist's own sake, that is, the mind of the artist—the primary function of which is to select the subject matter—always slips into the background. The twofold chamber of the mind—the conscious and the unconscious (to certain school, the subconscious) are hardly taken into account in the estimation of picture. The connoisseur scarcely thinks that mind is the first to shed its lustre upon the work of art and thereby reflect in every stroke and rhythm of line.

ART AND POETRY

Like poetry, art is difficult. Because they are sisters, says L. S. Bangdel. The poet expresses his emotion with words and the artist in his work. As a means to an end, we associate it with craft and know it as the skilled use of mechanical means to achieve a more than mechanical result.

Art is an effort after expression and it employs every available means. The emotions find their ideal expression in poetry, and poetry appeals to the human minds through all the senses. It is poetry that clothes the limbs of naked marble with more than marble's beauty. It is poetry that transfigures colour with a light beyond its own; poetry that inspires tone and gives the wings of worship.

SRI AUROBINDO ON ART

Art galleries cannot be brought into every home, but if all the appointments of our life and furniture of our homes are things of taste and beauty, it is inevitable that the habits, thoughts and feelings of the people should be raised, ennobled, harmonised, and dignified.

CHAMPION WRESTLER

Quite a number of wrestlers with international reputations took part in the professional wrestling tournament, held recently at Los Angeles. The semi-finalists were Lee Wyckoff, Vincent Lopez, Sandor Szabo and K. O. Koverley.

Wyckoff defeated Lopez, and Szabo accounted for Koverley. In the final, Wyckoff beat Szabo and immediately issued a challenge to Jim Londos, who claims the world championship. Londos, miles away, disregarded the Californian Commission's demand that he should meet the winner of the tournament, with the result that Wyckoff is now recognised in California as world champion. His claim is only one more added to the galaxy of those describing themselves as "Champion wrestler of the world".

H. H. THE AGA KHAN'S STUD

The whole of H. H. the Aga Khan's stud is among the hundreds of the best thoroughbreds bought by Germans, according to an independent French Agency message from the German frontier.

Among the horses are many famous brood mares, including La Becassine, La Bourrasque and La Belle Dame. The purchase is stated to be the result of requests from German breeders and the transaction was carried out by the German Breeders' Union and the German Army Command.

CYCLISTS' FEDERATION OF INDIA

Mr. Janki Dass, Indian Cycling Champion, who is Secretary of the National Cyclists' Federation of India and Secretary of the Punjab Cycling Association, it is learnt, has resigned. Mr. Abdul Hamid, Tournament Secretary of the Punjab Olympic Association, has been nominated in his place.

RONALD SHAYES

Mr. Ronald Shayes, the well-known Davis Cup Tennis player, who was a Sergeant in the R. A. F., has been killed in an air crash. He was ranked third in British Lawn Tennis.

DISCOVERY OF A NEW COMET

A comet, observed from New Zealand on Saturday the 25th January, is now confirmed as a new discovery. It was sighted by Mr. A. A. McIntosh of Auckland when its position was right ascension 17 hours 21 minutes and declination 50 degrees six minutes south. It was moving south-east at the rate of five degrees daily.

Astronomers explain that it is not the comet discovered by Mr. L. E. Cunningham, an American astronomer, in September. The comet has also been observed at different centres in India.

SIR P. C. RAY HONOURED

In appreciation of his Asiatic researches in science including medicine, Sir Prafulla Chandra Ray has been awarded the Sir William Jones Memorial Medal by the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

Other recipients of this honour have been: Sir Malcolm Watson, Sir George Grierson, Dr. Felix H. D. Herelle, Dr. C. Snouck Hurgronje, Dr. Sir U. N. Brama-chari and Dr. A. J. Wensinck.

RADIO RESEARCH BOARD FOR INDIA

The constitution of a Radio Research Board to study the possibility of manufacturing different parts of radio sets and microphones from indigenous materials is, it is learnt, now engaging the attention of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research. At the request of the Chairman of the Board, Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, the Physics Department of the Science College of Calcutta University, has undertaken the task of preparing a comprehensive scheme embodying the various aspects of the proposal.

RESEARCH UTILISATION COMMITTEE

Sir A. Rama-swami Mudaliar will be Chairman of the Industrial Research Utilisation Committee which, it was announced in Calcutta, is to be set up in order to make use of the results of research carried out by the Industrial and Scientific Research Board. About a dozen representatives, Indian and European, of industries in India are expected to be on the Committee.

LEELA DESAI ON HER SCREEN CAREER

Charming, petite, vivacious Leela Desai answered an endless stream of questions at the Presidency College, Madras, on February 5, for nearly an hour with great good humour and bonhomie.

Amidst loud applause, Miss Desai replied to the first question, that she was going to continue her screen career.

She was not going to run any new school of dance but she wanted to dance. Her best performance was in the "President". She would suggest a screen career to educated young women in preference to a stage career.

Her favourite Indian actors were: Saigal and Kananbala for singing and Devika Rani for acting. Among the Western stars, she liked Norma Shearer and Vivien Leigh and Robert Taylor. Proceeding, she said she would prefer to be both a film star and dancer. She then related how she had been signed for New Theatres by Mr. Hem Chandra, who saw her when she was studying dancing at Lucknow.

She wanted to learn Tamil and appear in one of the Talkies.

FILM INDUSTRY IN 1940

Thanks to the facilities afforded by the British Admiralty, states a report published by the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce on the "Film Industry in 1940", the shipping of raw films has been made regularly available to India from foreign countries, thus enabling India to maintain the average annual output of production.

Despite the rise in the price of raw film and railway freight, new taxes like the studio licence fee, etc., the output for 1940 did not suffer in quality and technique compared to last year.

South India contributes on an average one-third of the annual output of picture production in India. Eleven film producing studios functioned during the year under report in South India Mysore being included, as in the previous year. Eight of these studios were situated either in the City of Madras or in its vicinity. Coimbatore and Salem, between which there were three studios contributed to the quota.

RECORD SALE OF CARS

In spite of the war scare and bad weather, Detroit had its best Christmas, eve, and sold 400,000 cars to retail customers says a report from U. S. A.

One catch to this performance, although the 1941 model year began early, the early-season rush is still on. Also many buyers have been frightened into premature turn-ins by the thought that the 1941 models may be the last for some time. Yet the auto-makers, just as scared of rationing as their customers, have been anxious to build year-end inventories up to the level of 600,000 new cars. Sales were too fast for them. The November inventory increase (about 90,000 cars) put dealers' stocks up to only 450,000 cars.

Main reason for this retail crescendo has been (1) the assurance of future work guaranteed by rising order backlogs, (2) re-employment.

CARS AND TYRES

The faster you drive your motor car, the shorter will be the life of the tyres—this is a summary of part of an address given recently by a tyre manufacturer to a group of engineers. One driver, he said, may get 85,000 miles from a set of tyres while another, using the same kind of tyres, get only 5,000 miles of service. It was largely a question of speed.

According to his experience and the results of tests, front tyres lasted nearly half as long again, and rear tyres gave twice as much service at 55 m.p.h. than at 70 m.p.h. Too rapid acceleration and faulty driving around curves, in the opinion of this expert, were two of the chief factors responsible for the premature wearing out of tyres.

BOMBAY ROAD

The Bombay Government spent nearly Rs. 65'82 lakhs on roads in the Province in 1939-40, according to the annual report of the Public Works Department. Of this amount, Rs. 38'96 lakhs were from provincial revenues and were spent on the improvement of 19 provincial roads and Rs. 25'88 lakhs were from the Petrol Tax Fund and were utilised for metalling, modernising, construction, and other improvements.

WORLD'S LARGEST BOMBER

What is probably the world's largest bomber troop-carrier will shortly be in production in the U. S. A.

This is "B-19" Douglas Bomber which weighs 80 tons when fully loaded with its 18 tons of bombs and 10 tons of armaments. It has a range of 7,500 miles and carries a crew of 10.

With wing span 212 feet, this giant machine is driven by 4 Wright Duplex engines, each developing 2,000 horse power and attains a speed between 200 and 250 miles per hour at a height of 25,000 feet. It is stated that its armaments details, which are kept a close secret, enable "B. 1" to beat off attacks from several fighters at once without assistance from escorting aircraft.

RUNNING THE NAZI GAUNTLET

In addition to passengers and freight, British civil aircraft last year carried thirty million air mail letters, flying no less than five million miles despite German claims that Britain was encircled by an aerial blockade.

Even now in mid-winter, with severe weather added to the already considerable hazards of war time flying, approximately 10,000 miles are still being covered every week by the flying-boats and land-planes of British Airways.

Throughout the year contacts with Europe were regularly maintained despite Germany's overrunning of the Continent.

AIR CRAFT FOR FLYING CLUB

At a recent meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee of the Madras Provincial War Committee, Mr. G. A. Bambridge, the Chairman, referred to a report which he had received from Dr. R. J. Dyson, Chairman of the Madras Flying Club, stating that the Club had just received three Gypsy Metal Moths from England, that a fourth plane was on its way and that shipment of three Tiger Moths from Australia was expected to be made shortly. In addition to these aircraft, two more planes were on their way for use on the Central Government's Training Scheme. These planes have been supplied by the Government of India.

MANUFACTURE OF MARGARINE

Investigations for the manufacture of margarine for British troops has been taken up by two big Indian firms on the suggestion of the Board of Scientific Industrial Research. The Board has set up an exploratory committee for surveying the existing position of essential oils required particularly for soap industry, and two investigators have been asked to submit the programme of investigations, which may lead to the development of oil industry in India. An extensive programme of research has been drawn up for utilising vegetable oils mixed with mineral oils as lubricants.

ENAMEL WARES AND RUBBER PRODUCTS

One of the biggest enamel works in India is being called upon to manufacture enamel ware for the use of the medical stores department. This firm is already supplying some of the enamel articles required.

An improvement has been found in the resilience of samples of rubber tubing manufactured by a Calcutta firm. A trial order is being placed and if the article is found to be satisfactory, the entire requirements of India rubber tubing of the medical stores department may be obtained from this firm.

Samples of rubber corks submitted by an Indian rubber factory have been found to be satisfactory.

MANUFACTURE OF STOVES

An Indian firm has agreed to take up the manufacture of stoves and has been asked to furnish samples.

For the first time in India, the manufacture of oxygen field pattern outfits has been undertaken by an engineering firm in Calcutta and completed. The pilot sets received from the firm have been found to be satisfactory and an order has been placed.

It is proposed to manufacture in the medical stores depots a malt extract of cod liver oil. Samples of the article manufactured have been received and are being tried.

MILK YIELD IN INDIA

Mr. T. Bhaskara Menon, proprietor of a dairy farm, addressing the Rotary Club at its luncheon meeting at Ernakulam, spoke on "the Milky Way". Mr. Menon said that from the point of view of milk yield, Indian cattle to-day were the poorest. In fact, the position was that of English cattle in the latter half of the 18th century. The truth of the matter was that in India, the cow received too much veneration and too little food. Thanks, however, to the devotion of her cowherds, India still possessed some very good breeds handed down from generation to generation by poor ryots—breeds like the Sindhis, Sahiwalis and the Ongole. The daily production of milk per *capita* in India was only eight ounces of which seven were consumed, which was far below the dietary requirements of a normal human being, which was 15 ounces at the lowest. Compared with other countries, it was a staggering figure. In New Zealand, the daily production of milk was 244 ounces per *capita* and consumption 56 ounces. In Great Britain, the daily production per head was 14 ounces, but consumption was 89 ounces.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The Government of Bengal, it is understood, have sanctioned the introduction of a scheme of imparting agricultural education in junior and senior Madrasahs in the Presidency. Hitherto, the scheme applied only to High and Middle English Schools.

PRISONERS TO WORK ON LAND

Italian prisoners, captured by the British forces in Libya, will be sent to Britain to work on the land, says the *Daily Telegraph*.

The object, it adds, will be to relieve the present shortage of agricultural labour, and the trade unions will offer no opposition to the proposal.

GUR FROM PALMYRA PALM

The manufacture of *gur* from the palmyra palm, which the All-India Village Industries Association has been carrying on in several districts of Bengal is, it is understood, engaging the attention of the Government of Bengal.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES COOCH BEHAR GANDHI-BOSE CORRESPONDENCE

There were only 101 industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ending June 30, 1940, compared with the figure 128 for the previous quarter. They involved 268,580 workers and resulted in a loss of 2,474,268 working days the corresponding figures for the earlier quarter having been 278,990 and 4,008,016, respectively.

Of the disputes, 81 were successful, 18 partially successful and 47 unsuccessful. Five were still in progress at the end of the quarter.

The important strikes which occurred during the quarter were:

Bihar.—(1) The strike in the Peninsular Tobacco Factory, Monghyr. This strike was in progress at the end of the quarter, involving 1,600 workers and 124,800 working days lost.

Bombay.—(2) General strike in the Bombay Textile Mills, involving 156,598 workers and 1,409,658 working days lost.

Central Provinces and Berar.—(3) The strike in the Empress Mills, Nagpur, involving 14,000 workers and 210,000 days lost.

INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL ARMY.

The first batch of 50 Bevin boys, selected from artisans employed in factories in India for training in the United Kingdom, are leaving India.

Of ages ranging from 18 to 35, these technicians come from all classes and parts of India and include electricians, fitters, blacksmiths, etc. They will form an advance guard of what is described as the first industrial army to leave India.

Announcing the scheme to train several hundred Indians in England, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister for Labour, said in November last: "The men will be paid the same pay as our own trainers from the Ministry of Labour, and their wives in India will be paid allowances by the Ministry according to the arrangements we are making. This is forging a new industrial link between the East and the West."

The offer of his services by Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose entirely at the disposal of Mahatma Gandhi in connection with the Satyagraha movement and its rejection, by the latter on grounds of vital and fundamental differences constitute the main points of a correspondence that had passed between the two leaders before Mr. Bose's sudden disappearance from his home last month.

The entire correspondence, which has now been released to the press by Mr. Mukundlal Sarkar, Acting General Secretary of the All-India Forward Bloc, with Mahatma Gandhi's permission consist of four letters, two from each side.

AIR RAID VICTIMS

As many as 11,424 people have been killed on the roads of Britain during the 15 months of the war. The Ministry of Transport, making this statement, says that the number is an increase of 8,141 over the number killed in the 15 months preceding the war. Most of the accidents occurred during the hours of darkness and over half of those killed are pedestrians. The number killed during November 1,146, is only 10 less than the figure for last December which is the worst month hitherto.

U. S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Complete returns of the Presidential Election show the largest poll in the history of the United States, 49,808,624 people voted as compared with 45,226,455 in 1936.

President Roosevelt received 27,241,989 votes as compared with 27,476,678 in the previous election.

Mr. Wilkie polled 22,327,226 votes. His poll was the largest ever polled by a Republican candidate.

MR. FAZLUL HUQ ON MADRASIS

Sincere admiration for the province of Madras in its being free from the virus of communalism was expressed by the Bengal Premier, Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, while presiding over the ceremony of the presentation of a purse to Mr. Kuppuswami Sastri, a retiring teacher of the National High School in South Calcutta.

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The Decline of the New Roman Empire

BY MR. G. A. JOHNSON

GENERAL Sir Archibald Wavell's campaign in Libya has been compared to the victorious campaign of Field-Marshal Lord Allenby in Palestine, a campaign which led to the elimination of Turkey from the war in 1918. Gen. Wavell served on Allenby's staff and has been his biographer. Careful preparation, rapid movement, feints, encirclement and the massing of overwhelming strength at points chosen for attack, have marked this like the earlier campaign, which has been described by a leading military critic as "one of the masterpieces of military history, as perfect in design as in execution". The design and execution of the present, Libyan, campaign (which incorporates the newest as well as the oldest lessons of warfare and supplies a remarkable example of that co-operation of all arms and all services which is the dream of every subaltern) seem to justify the repetition of Captain Liddell Hart's tribute to Allenby.

The success of the Nile Army also recalls an older, decisive success, Nelson's naval victory of 1798. (For students of coincidence, it may be of interest to notice that General Wavell, like Nelson, is blind of one eye). Both these successes emphasise the important lesson that no country at war with a Naval Power can safely undertake expeditions abroad

without command of the seas. Italy, with bases in Libya and the careful preparations of years, should have been better off than was Napoleon in Egypt in 1798. The growth of air power should have facilitated supply. Indeed, British problems of supply would appear to be far more formidable than Italian. But, as in 1798 so in 1940-41, naval fighting strength has proved more important than geographical propinquity. It is the fleet of Admiral Cunningham that has made possible the success in Libya. For some time past, it has been obvious that Italy's power in north and east Africa is doomed unless, by her own efforts or the efforts of her ally, she can undo the effects of the British blow to the Italian fleet at Taranto. Recently, almost certainly too late, she has made the attempt.

The attack on a heavily-protected British convoy bound for Greece may be regarded as an earnest of the new policy. A succession of blows like this would be inconvenient, to say the least. In terms of money, labour or warlike usefulness, a dozen dive bombers are poor compensation for a cruiser sunk and an aircraft carrier damaged. However, the prompt and repeated action taken by the R. A. F. over Sicily, coupled with the stout resistance of the Fleet and the defences of Malta should make the Germans hesitate before they

commit themselves to the constant aerial reinforcement of their Italian ally. Moreover, the convoy got to its Greek destination and neither German nor Italian air power has had the least effect on the advance in Libya and East Africa. The British Navy continues to dominate the Mediterranean and to give powerful assistance where required.

Sidi Barrani, Bardia, Tobruk have fallen to the Imperial Forces in succession. In Eritrea, the Italians are on the run. In Abyssinia, their authority is being rapidly undermined. Hatred of the Italian oppressor, combined with British aid and arms, has created a spirit of Abyssinian unity which certainly did not exist in 1935. The Emperor and his eldest son, the Church, the dissident chiefs all seem to have sunk their differences for the purpose of driving out the Italian. The disappearance of the whole Italian Empire in Africa seems imminent and, since it is under the spell of its doubtful glory that Mussolini has diverted the attention of the Italian people from domestic hardships and grievances, its disappearance would logically seem to demand the disappearance also of the Fascist regime.

Reinforcement of the Italian forces in Albania continues, under difficulties. The British and Greek air forces will need to give the Albanian ports, particularly Durazzo, a further pounding. But, in spite of their fresh troops, the Italians have, at the time of writing, nowhere obtained even local success. The Greeks continue, slowly, to advance. The Italian morale, in Albania as in Africa, is reported to be bad. But masses can do much to make up for morale. The number of Italian troops employed in all theatres of war overseas must still be far short of a

million. What has happened to the "8,000,000 bayonets" which Signor Mussolini represented as offering an olive branch in 1936? Are they keeping order at home, preparing to resist a British invasion, keeping an eye on France (or on Germany), or do they simply not exist? The state of some of the Italian equipment suggests that there has been a great deal of bluff in Italy's martial appearance of recent years.

The German attitude towards Italy is not easy to understand. There may be truth in the stories of Nazi jubilation over Italian discomfiture. But dislike or contempt does not adequately explain why Germany has not gone earlier to the aid of her ally who is performing the important task of tying up British ships, aircraft and men in the Mediterranean area and preventing the free use of the Mediterranean as a British commercial highway. Professed help may have been declined but Germany cannot readily afford to let Italy make a separate peace or, still worse from the German point of view, overthrow the present regime and, under its successor, not impossibly, passively or actively assist the traditional friend, Britain.

Occupation of Italy by German troops is considered likely by some commentators. Advance units are active there already. But, although Germany has done herself comfortably so far by "boarding out" her armies and so saving their upkeep at home, the process may be carried too far. In none of the occupied countries have the Germans been accepted, except by a small section of the population, in their proclaimed role of deliverers and apostles of a new order. It is very important to maintain communications with these

armies, to be able to reinforce them at need, and to keep central control—a matter in which the German High Command was not conspicuously successful either in 1870 or in 1914.

An Italian collapse seems to be on the way, but it would be unwise to put a date to it in advance. Germany may consider that Italy will hold out until she has time to prepare and launch her diversion. The most obvious forms of diversion are:

1. a flank attack on Greece,
2. an attack on the Suez Canal,
3. an attack on Gibraltar,
4. the invasion of Britain.

Greece might be attacked either by the shorter, but hilly, route through Yugoslavia or by way of Bulgaria and the Thracian plain. The second route gives opportunity for the use of Germany's mechanised forces and has the advantage of taking Greece in the rear. (A third form of "flank attack," persuading the Greeks to accept an armistice, has also been discussed.) A march through Bulgaria, Turkey, Syria and Palestine would bring the Germans to the Suez Canal. But this ambitious programme would be resisted by the Turks and probably also by the French forces in Syria. Allowing for the difference of climate, it would seem to have all the disadvantages of Napoleon's march on Moscow. Moreover, it would have to be undertaken very quickly if it was to give relief to Italy's armies in Africa. An attack on Gibraltar might offer better prospects of a quick diversion. These plans are conditioned to some extent by the attitude of the Spanish in one case, of the Balkan States not yet at war in the others. If two or more of the plans were combined (and, perhaps, a threat to Iraq

thrown in) the force of the conditioning factors would be greatly increased.

The situation in the Balkans is, as usual, complicated. Recent and at the time of writing, still obscure, developments suggest that Rumanians may be getting tired of kissing the rod. The attitude of Bulgaria to the passage of German troops is equivocal. The Bulgarian Premier's speech which, in the summary cabled to this country, appeared to be an invitation to the Germans to march in, had an unexpectedly favourable reception in Greece. Russia continues to assert her neutrality. But it seems unlikely that she would sit idly by if her interests were threatened. But, again, what are those interests? And who can be sure that, if Germany makes a move, Russia's interests will not have been secured by prior arrangements between them?

It would be a mistake to regard German strategical ingenuity as limited to the three forms of diversion already discussed or the fourth which will be considered later. There is, for example, the possibility of a diversion, not in Italy's interest, but of interest from Italy. The situation at Vichy may be cleared up by the time this article appears in print. Will the egregious M. Laval be restored to office? It is not, perhaps, widely known that, at the outbreak of war in 1914, M. Laval, then a Socialist, was one of the people whom the French Government had marked down for arrest for disloyal activities. If Laval gets back, will Germany get control of the French fleet and the French colonial armies? In such circumstances, the Italians might be let go their doom. France would be at least equally capable of sustaining the task of diverting British attention to the Mediterranean. But it is

very doubtful whether even Naval could work a voluntary transformation of French policy on these lines.

There remains: invasion. Many people doubt whether the invasion of Britain has ever been seriously contemplated and ask whether the massing of troops and the concentration of barges in continental ports are not mere bluff. Others contend that the opportunity for invasion has passed and that the Germans know it has passed. Moreover, the influence of sea power is even more important in the North Sea and English Channel than in the Mediterranean. But it is plain that Germany's sole hope of defeating Britain lies in a successful invasion. The aerial attacks and the war on shipping—there is at present a lull in both forms of activity—have brought Britain no nearer defeat, serious though both have been and may be again. Even an attempt at invasion might be calculated to have the effect of diverting British effort from the Mediterranean. But is it worth sacrificing German lives in a hopeless enterprise simply to save the Italian Empire?

Both Italian difficulties, and the probability of a large increase in American aid to Britain, suggest that, if the attempt is to be made, it must be made soon. Recent comparative quiescence in German activities (due, in part at least, to bad weather) should not deceive us. Experience between the end of the Polish campaign and the launching of the "Blitz" through the Low Countries indicates that the Germans employ such pauses to prepare themselves for a major effort.

There is an interesting resemblance between the present situation and that which prevailed in Europe in 1801-02:

then France, now Germany, all-powerful on land; Britain in command of the seas. The result of the deadlock in 1802 was the Treaty of Amiens. There is no possibility of such a treaty now; but it is possible that Hitler would be pleased to let the war die of inanition, resuming it when it suited him. We have no means of measuring the war-weariness in Germany. It may be supposed that failure to carry out the programme of defeating Britain according to schedule has not been without its effect. However this may be, it is certain that Germany is in urgent need of time to digest her continental gains. As an additional argument for slowing down the *tempo* of the war, it may be reckoned that, given time for reflection, both Britain and America would begin to doubt the value of the outpouring of vast sums of money on the continuance of the war for the sake of whom—countries which have ceased fighting! Moreover, an easing up of the aerial attacks on Britain would give American isolationism an opportunity to make up some of the ground it has lost under the influence of the vivid sympathy for British air-raid victims.

Here is a possible German policy, given for what it is worth—not very much, perhaps. But the German leaders are good psychologists and it must now have become clear to them that the problem of breaking down the British will to fight requires methods totally different from those used in other countries now within their grasp. The method of inanition, as it can be called, may be used now or later. The chief argument for using it now is that the United States Lend and Lease Bill is still under discussion and British preparations for counter-attack in Europe are incomplete. But Britain cannot afford to let her strategy or her tactics be imposed on her. The moment she is ready and an opportunity presents itself, she must attack, as the R. A. F. is already doing on an increasing scale.

THE HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

BY MR. V. G. RAMAKRISHNA AIYER, M.A.

[The personnel and terms of reference of the "Fact-finding" Committee referred to in this article, have since been announced. The Committee consists of Dr. P. J. Thomas, Professor of Economics, University of Madras, Chairman, Rai Bahadur Hrishikesh Mukherjee, Custom House, Calcutta, Member, and Mr. B. P. Adarkar, Reader in Economics, University of Allahabad, Secretary. The terms of reference of the Committee will be as follows:—(1) To make a survey with the assistance of the Provincial and State Governments of the extent of the handloom industry in each province and of the kinds of handloom products produced and the number of persons engaged in the industry; (2) to make a report on the marketing organisations both for the purchase of yarn by the handloom weavers and for the sale of the handloom products; (3) to compare the nature of the products of the handloom industry in each area surveyed with the corresponding mill products and to find the nature of the competition between the two; (4) to investigate the kinds of yarn used in the handloom industry and the types of production for which different kinds of yarn are used; and (5) in particular to investigate how far an enactment prohibiting the mills from using yarns of low counts would help the handloom industry in maintaining its production.—Ed. I.R.]

THE Conference summoned recently by the Commerce Member of the Government of India in New Delhi, to consider possible measures to assist handloom weaving has referred the question to a Fact-finding Committee. The question is of such vital importance to small-scale industries in this country that it is well to draw attention to a few cardinal facts.

The handloom already enjoys certain advantages which ensure a steady, if relatively limited market for it. One is, that it is free from the labour troubles which have frequently dislocated the mill industry. Another favourable factor is that, even in the absence of any restrictions on mill production, handlooms practically enjoy a monopoly with regard to certain types and styles of cloth. Thus handlooms are able to contribute 26 per cent. of the total volume of piece-goods consumed in India. It is seen that in 1939-40, out of 5,960 million yards of cotton piece-goods available in India, 1,600 million yards were supplied by handlooms. It should be possible to maintain and expand the trade if handloom weavers reduce their costs. They can do so by more continuous production. At present many work only during certain seasons or for a certain number of days in the month and then wait until their goods are sold, expecting for their labour wages sufficient to maintain them even during the period when they are idle. They should be helped to establish handloom factories where they can work steadily, or those working in their own homes should be attached to commercial organisations which can market their goods.

The handloom is peculiarly suited to the sentiments, habits and caste organisation

of the Indian worker. It may be said also that the mill industry and the handloom industry are not really antagonistic. The amount of direct competition between them is very restricted and the handlooms provide a large market for yarns produced by mills and in the case of khadi, its position in relation to mill cloth is noteworthy.

Let us examine in particular the position of Khadi *versus* Mill cloth. In 1937, the total approximate number of labourers employed in the production of khadi cloth was 217,498. This number has considerably gone up. As against this, the cotton textile mill industry gave employment to 417,276 workers. In 1937, the total khadi production was 725 million, the corresponding mill production being 3,571 million yards. A million yards of khadi cloth were produced by 80,000 labourers; the same amount of mill cloth requires only 117 labourers. A million rupees of capital invested in khadi-making employs 48,499 workers; the same amount invested in making mill cloth employs 1,485 workers.

Factory production is said to bring about a lowering in the cost of goods which is likely to widen consumption. Admitting that factory production is cheaper than handloom production, the problem before the workers would be to choose between 'employment and a little costly goods' and 'unemployment and cheaper goods'. Any worker would prefer the first alternative, because in the second case the worker has no means to purchase goods, however cheap they may be. The position would have been tolerable if the wages of the displaced workers were added to the earnings of

those that are left. What actually happens is a contraction in the wage bill. In khadi production the wage bill constitutes 70 per cent. of the total cost of production, while in a modern cotton factory it comes up to only 20 per cent.

The difference in the cost of production of khadi cloth and mill cloth is not very marked, while there is a difference of two and a half times in the labour costs. In one case in Madras, it was shown that the cost of production in mills was even higher than the cost of production in the handloom industry.

The vast difference in the labour costs and the slight difference or even parity between the total cost of production of cloth in mills and that on handlooms is explained, in spite of the external and internal economics of mass production by the huge initial capital cost in the form of machines, their renewals, repairs and depreciation, high management costs and profits. In other words, rent, interest and profits account for this difference. It is to be further noted that the greater part of the money goes to swell the profits of the iron and steel magnates of Europe. On the other hand, paying higher prices for khadi is equivalent to withdrawing purchasing power (to the extent of the additional prices) from the consumers of cloth and rent, interest, profits (which are unearned increments) and taxes, and transferring all this money to the half-starved workers and peasants in rural areas.

The increase in the expenditure on cloth incurred by the well-to-do sections and the urban communities owing to the higher price of khadi would be a net addition to the purchasing power of the villagers, as well as the savings of the amount paid as interest and profits included in the price of mill cloth. As far as the substitution of mill cloth by khadi in the case of villagers themselves is concerned, there would be some increase in the clothing bill; but this would be more than counter-balanced by the additional wages provided for them through khadi. In 1937, 177,496 spinners employed by the All-India Spinners' Association set apart Rs. 2,07,119 of their earnings for the purchase of

khadi and actually purchased 278,481 square yards of it.

Why the progress of the mill industry, after 75 years of existence and with ample protection, has been so stunted in comparison with the khadi industry, which has enjoyed no official protection and which is but 20 years' old, is explained by the fact that mill production contracts the purchasing power of the masses, while khadi not only expands it but diffuses it very widely and equitably.

The measures calculated to improve the position of the handloom are bound to strengthen Indian agriculture inasmuch as the handloom industry is carried on in India predominantly as a subsidiary activity of the agriculturists. This probably accounts largely for the partiality which Mahatma Gandhi has for khadi. According to the reports obtained by the 1932 Cotton Textile Tariff Board from all the provinces, the number of handlooms in India is as under:

PROVINCES.	NO. OF HANDLOOMS.
Assam ..	425,000
Bihar & Orissa ..	125,000
Bengal ..	200,000
Bombay ..	100,000
Central Provinces ..	100,000
Delhi ..	450
Madras ..	225,000
N.-W. Frontier Provinces ..	500
Punjab ..	75,000
Hyderabad ..	140,000

If we include figures for Kashmir, Mysore and other Indian States, the total figure would come up to 2½ millions.

The Special Tariff Board of 1935 estimated the amount of yarn consumed in each province as given in the following table:—

PROVINCE	QUANTITY IN MILLIONS OF LBS. YARN CONSUMED		CLOTH PRODUCED
	COTTON	OTHERS.	
Madras	78.8	...	315
Bengal	48.2	...	235
Bombay	50.2	...	291
United Provinces	49.5	6.4	401
Bihar & Orissa	21.1	...	...
Punjab	60.1	4.0	...
Delhi	.2	...	.7
N.-W. Frontier	1.0	...	9
Central Provinces	15.5	...	...
Assam	4.3	...	22

The provincial distribution of the total amount of yarn available for consumption may be indicated from figures in regard to road and river-borne trade. The production of cloth on handlooms and the total quantity of cloth available for consumption in the country is estimated by the Bombay Mill-owners' Association as under:

YEARS	QUANTITY OF CLOTH TURNED OUT ON HANDLOOMS (APPROXIMATE).	TOTAL QUANTITY OF CLOTH AVAILABLE FOR CONSUMPTION IN THE COUNTRY.
1929-30	1,679	5,744
1930-31	1,655	4,888
1931-32	1,808	5,360
1932-33	2,056	6,325
1933-34	1,725	5,256
1934-35	1,793	5,970

It will be seen that the handloom supplies nearly a third of the Indian market for cotton goods. With the adoption of electric power-looms in their cottages, the ability of the weavers to hold their own will be much strengthened. Even as it is, there are certain fields in which the handloom weaver is quite able to compete both with the indigenous mill and the foreign importers. In the case of finer qualities of cloth for richer classes, and in the case of coarse varieties of cloth, the Indian mills will not find it easy to dislodge the handloom worker. It is, therefore, necessary by official policy to keep the mills from competing with the handlooms in spheres which may be regarded as their special field.

END THE DEADLOCK

MR. AMERY has spoken again; or to be more correct, Mr. Amery has repeated his previous declarations. For in his interview with Sir Alfred Watson, he is reported to have said:

I still maintain that the offer of August last is a generous and far-reaching one. It still remains open, as the Viceroy has made plain in his recent statement to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. The approach can come at any time now from the Indian side.

There is nothing in this that has not been said before and said with disgusting re-iteration. If this is the end of all his cogitations over the political impasse in India, we must despair of a settlement in the near future.

It is now sixteen months since Congress went into the wilderness over the question of what are called the national demands which, put in concrete form, were no more than the right to free and whole-hearted participation in the defence of the country without prejudice to her self-respect. The offer of August last has been repeatedly declared to be inadequate by every party that counts in the country. Liberals and Mahasabhis took strong exception to

the minority bogey which is always put forward as an excuse for withholding power and asked for a clear time limit for the conferment of Dominion Status. Mr. Jinnah definitely told the "League Council" that "the British Government appear to have no intention to part with power". In his letter to Mr. Jinnah, Mr. Fazlul Huq, Premier of Bengal, says bluntly of the constitution he is trying to work so whole-heartedly:

The present Government of India Act is absolutely rubbish. It gives us responsibility but no power; it gives all the power to the Governor and the Governor-General-in-Council but all the responsibilities to the Ministers.

And Congressmen went a step further and resigned their offices in protest and are now seeking a desperate remedy in Satyagraha and imprisonment. The remedy may be worse than the disease but it is there however deplorable, as an unmistakable gesture of Congress reaction to Government's intransigence. Hundreds of Congressmen are now in jail and hundreds more are awaiting arrest. These include men who have held offices of power and responsibility in the late Government and whose influence

in the country can by no means be ignored. And yet Mr. Amery, who must have been watching this strange reaction to his offer, tells the House of Commons coolly,

that there had been no further discussions and no substantial change in the political situation since November 20.

It is sad to contemplate this aimless drifting which, if allowed to proceed, will spell disaster to the future of England and India. Mr. Amery himself tells us that "upon essentials there is no disagreement". What then if not a false sense of prestige should have stood in the way of a satisfactory settlement? "The real problem today is one that only Indians can solve for themselves," says Mr. Amery with pontifical air. Why then should he add a rider which has become a canting phrase with officialdom that "the British Government has after all the responsibility for the peace and welfare of India, inherited from the past". That same sense of responsibility ought to impel them to find ways and means to end the dead-lock which, in the light of the life and death struggle in which the world is engaged, seems singularly unimaginative.

"Too late" has often been the curse of British statesmanship all through history—in America, in Ireland, in India—and let it not be said that at a time when all India is waiting to throw the whole weight of its force against Nazism British statesmen were so lacking in imagination as to ignore the hand of friendship.

It is absurd to plead that the "new approach" should come from the Indians themselves. It is the strong that must be generous, and Britain's position in India is such that she can afford to make a "new approach", not in a timid, hesitating way but in a spirit of magnanimous goodwill. The time for vague promises and long-winded declarations is past. There should be no more talks about "the goals".

It is a mistake to think that it is only the Congress and the Muslim

League that cannot see any thing in the Viceregal declaration. In a recent memorandum, leading Liberals in the country have expressed in unmistakable terms their regret at the turn of events following the unfortunate policy of drift. A leading Liberal in Madras, Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar, puts the nation's demand in definite and unambiguous terms. The demands are simple, but think of the wholesome effect such a pronouncement will have on the situation. Government are asked to make their intentions known on these points:

(1) The nationalisation of the defence force of India; (2) that in the policy of industrialisation of India, India shall have from this moment the same freedom to shape her policy as Australia or Canada, the paramount consideration being the development of Indian industries and the attainment by India of as much self-sufficiency as is possible and, (3) that the attainment of Dominion Status shall be effected within a year or two after the termination of the war.

What is there in this to deter the Government from making such a declaration? If this could end the dead-lock and make way for a common and determined war effort, what a pity that such an opportunity should be lost!

For, when all is said, it looks odd that Britain fighting for freedom in Europe should refuse the demand for freedom at home, that is to say, within the Commonwealth itself. Such a policy is bound to have an unwholesome effect on world opinion of Britain's good faith. The case for India can hardly be put more vividly than in the words of Prof. Laski, a democrat, who cannot be accused of being partial to India against the interests of England—

We are fighting against a German-Italian attempt to impose imperialism of the kind we practise in India upon Europe. All its ingredients are there. The Viceroy is our gauleiter; we have the puppet Government; we keep all the vital powers and posts in our own hands; we have an armoury of repressive legislation to prevent any effort at national self-determination we happen to dislike; we exploit all the divisions in the Indian community for our own advantage; we offer, in response to agitation, a shadow of real power while we keep the substance in our hands. This is how Germany governs Denmark and Slovakia. This is what we are fighting against in Europe.

RESEARCH IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

BY DR. A. APPADORAI, M.A., Ph.D.

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[T is a familiar remark that the progress of social sciences has lagged behind that of the physical sciences. This unbalanced development explains some of the fundamental drawbacks of the present social order—the unequal distribution of wealth (the 'accumulation of which has been made possible by a series of scientific inventions) and the ever present sense of insecurity caused by the frequent recurrence of war (obviously helped by man's enormous control over forces of nature and the increasing scientific perfection of the forces of destruction). The central idea of this rather miscellaneous collection of Essays: "Men and Ideas" by Graham Wallas (Allen & Unwin, 8s. 6d. net) is a call to social invention by one of the most original minds of his generation, to the invention of 'patterns of social behaviour which men may choose to follow rather than merely to discover laws of social behaviour which they must inevitably follow'. Whether Graham Wallas is writing on Bentham or on Universities, the key-note is the same. All the world is now calling for social invention and intellectual leadership. The social inventors deserve our unstinted admiration. Bentham, for instance, in seventy years of uninterrupted toil made inventions which have transformed our legal procedure, substituted competition for patronage in the Civil Service and introduced a logical relation between our Central and Local Governments; he made scientific health administration possible by the creation of social statistics and introduced a hundred minor improvements, whether in savings banks and money

orders, or the ordnance survey or office architecture. The need for such inventions has only grown greater since Bentham; for during the last hundred years in all the civilized communities of the world, the functions of government have changed from being mainly negative into being mainly positive, that is to say, governments have come to be engaged not merely in preventing wrong things from being done, but in bringing it about that right things shall be done. A negative government only requires courage and consistency in its officials; but a positive government requires a constant supply of invention and suggestion.

The end of all research in social sciences is human happiness. But there are difficulties in such research. In the natural sciences experiment is easy. "A few hours' or weeks' work in their laboratories told Ramsay or Helmholtz whether a new idea was well or ill-founded. Before any one of Bentham's ideas could be tested, he had to persuade an unwilling Parliament or Cabinet to undertake a new and troublesome task." The inventor should also have imagination and the capacity to put in very hard work—it is said of Bentham that throughout his seventy years of intellectual production, he wrote from ten to sixteen folio pages of manuscript every working day. He has to overcome opposition from vested interests. He will be told by them that every proposed reform in social organisation is 'against human nature'. The true inventor, however, knows that facts about human nature as apparently permanent as the belief in magic or the sentiment of

monarchy have proved capable of change. These difficulties and several others should not deter the student of social sciences from pursuing his task; they are a challenge to him to put forth his best effort and produce useful results. The improvement of democratic institutions to overcome their admitted defects, the right type of education to suit democracy, the removal of unemployment and poverty, and the avoidance of war are some of the directions in which social invention is urgent. Indeed as Gokhale said: "On every side whichever way we turn, only one sight meets the eye, that of work to be done, and only one cry is heard, that there are only few faithful workers."

If the work of social invention is supremely necessary, how are we to secure that a sufficient number of suitable persons shall undertake it under sufficiently favourable conditions? "Political inventors," says Wallas, "are not more popular among politicians or functionaries than were the inventors of textile machinery among the textile operatives of a hundred years

ago"—for, invention means the breaking up of comfortable habits and interference with vested interests. The creation of a sort of administrative General Staff attached to administrative departments on the lines of Lord Haldane's suggestions, intensive research by Universities and other learned bodies devoted to social welfare and the creation of a more general recognition of the need of invention as a safety valve in our artificial civilization are essential. Wallas also suggests that the League of Nations 'Committee on Intellectual Co-operation' could start a world-wide scheme of research. The student should also be trained to acquire contact with first-hand material; an organized scheme of 'teamwork' should be possible to avoid 'overlapping of subjects. These Essays remind us of the importance of well directed and properly organized research in social sciences in our own generation; they also provide useful hints to the student to enable him to proceed on the right lines and contribute to the sum total of human happiness.

HELP FOR CHINESE DOLLAR

BY MR. P. M. GEORGE

IF Chinese military resistance to Japan has astonished the outside world, the resistance of the Chinese dollar is equally noteworthy. The Chinese currency has been on the verge of collapse many a time, but it has survived all crises and is still tacitly accepted by the vast masses of the people. However, the dollar has depreciated sharply during the three years of war with Japan.

The strength of the currency is a matter of vital importance to the war, for its

exchange value represents the ability of the government to obtain foreign supplies. I shall make this clearer. The exchange value of the rupee we know is 1s. 6d. Supposing the rupee were to depreciate in terms of sterling, say to 6d., we would have to give three times the amount of rupees to obtain the same quantity of foreign supplies as we got before. Such a catastrophe is unthinkable.

Yet that is exactly what has happened to China. The Chinese dollar was quoted in

the London market at 14 to 14½d. at the outbreak of the war. The present rate is slightly below 4d.

How did this happen? One reason for the steep decline was flight of capital. The Chinese currency was converted by foreign holders into American and British currency. This is a usual phenomenon in war time. Flight of capital took place even in England at the outbreak of the present world war, as a result of which the sterling-dollar rate declined from 4'68 to 4'02½ to 4'08½, which is the present controlled rate.

INFLATION

Another important reason was inflation. Inflation had set in even before the war. At the end of October, 1935, the total note issue of the four leading Chinese banks was 486 million Chinese dollars. By July 1937, the total note issue exceeded 1,400 million dollars. Between August, 1937, and March, 1938, the note circulation went up by 234 million dollars (first eight months of war). War meant more and more money and Government had to borrow from the banks; so the banks had to issue more notes. By June, 1938, there was a further rise of 48 million; by June, 1939, another 900 million and by the end of 1939 another 595 million dollars. So between October, 1935, and December, 1939, the total note circulation had increased by 2,681 million dollars.

One of the avowed objects of the recent American and British credits to China is to stabilise the currency. The United States has agreed to lend 100 million dollars (about £25 million) and Britain £10 million, half of which shall be made

over to the Chinese Exchange Stabilisation Fund.

The history of this Stabilisation Fund goes back to the early months of 1939, when the debacle of the Chinese dollar assumed a serious nature. In March of that year, the Fund was formed with £10 million. Two British banks contributed £5 million and the balance was supplied by two Chinese banks.

PRESSURE ON RATE

The Chinese dollar was then quoted around 8½d. and the Stabilisation Fund greatly helped to maintain that rate. Support was extended in this way—when there was any pressure on the rate, the Stabilisation Fund would sell sterling at 8½d. But this process could not continue for long; the balances began to deplete. Accordingly support was withdrawn and the dollar was left to find its own natural resistance level. Between February and May, 1940, the rate declined from 5d. to 4½d. At this lower rate the Fund again began to operate, until support was withdrawn again when the Fund dwindled by half. The dollar fell to 8½d.

A Far Eastern expert is reported to have stated that the decline of the Chinese dollar was the greatest victory for the Japanese since the capture of Hankow. The decline meant that Chinese power to purchase essential foreign supplies was considerably curtailed.

Through all these anxious days, the Chinese people never questioned the worth of the paper currency of the National Government, though they were accustomed by the tradition of centuries to silver. Even in towns occupied by the Japanese, it is stated, the Chinese are putting up dogged resistance against the currency of the puppet regimes.

CURRENCY WAR

Incidentally the currency war carried on in China is interesting. According to Gresham's law, bad money drives out the good. This means that if two currencies circulate, whoever prints more bad money has the better chance of success. The Japanese in North China, through the Federal Reserve Bank of Peiping, printed paper currency much faster than the Chinese, and Chinese currency was to a certain extent driven out of circulation.

The greatest difficulty of the Chinese is that the main ports are in Japanese hands. This hampers exports and the acquisition of foreign exchange in that way. But by a "typical piece of Oriental compromise", as the City Editor of the *News Chronicle* puts it, Chinese exports are not at a standstill. He wrote:

The Japanese authorities are apparently prepared to allow the goods to leave the ports and the payment for them to reach the Chinese banks, provided the heavy export duties—about 40 per cent. of the invoice price—are paid to them. On these terms the whole of the Chinese tea crop is being shipped without let or hindrance by the Japanese authorities.

One occasionally hears junks shipping Chinese goods for the export market being sunk by the Japanese, but they are only those which attempt to leave without paying the duty.

Compared to the Western methods of blockade, the Japanese method appears more humanitarian. But Japan knows that she cannot prevent certain leakages and is apparently content to make the "China incident" self-supporting as much as possible.

BRITISH POLICY

Things looked very dark for China when the Burma Road and the Indo-China routes were closed. These were the routes through which U. S. and Russian supplies reached Chungking. The route through Outer Mongolia to Russia was open, but

the distance was too great to be of any real benefit (it is about 1,200 miles from Tihua to Sian). For 75 per cent. of arms supplies and almost the entire quantity of petrol, China is dependent on foreign countries. As a result of the blockade, there was acute petrol shortage and transport became increasingly difficult. The flow of goods from industrial centres ceased. This, combined with inflation, sent up prices to new high levels till it reached a level of 600 per cent. above the 1937 level.

It was fortunate for China that Great Britain soon realised the folly of appeasement. In defence of Britain, it must be pointed out that she had to devote her entire attention to affairs in Europe. But it is possible that she was also guided by self-interest. Britain has invested large sums of money in Chinese railway and customs loans. By appeasing Japan, she thought she could protect these interests. Many of these railway loans were in default. When Japan took over Manchuria, she was able to put the British-controlled railway there on a profitable basis—hitherto all the money had been misappropriated by local war lords. Promptly Japan paid over all back interests. Similar treatment was expected in other parts of China. But that is all past history.

With the reopening of the Burma Road, supplies again began to pour in. Chinese resistance stiffened, resulting in recent Japanese withdrawals.

It is expected that one of the results of the American and British credits would be a rise in the exchange rate for Chinese dollar to 6d. from its present level of 4d. . . . Since this article was written, the Japanese-sponsored 'National Government in China' at Nanking has organised a Central Reserve Bank Note issue.

VAISHNAVISM IN ASSAM

BY MR. GOVINDARAM DAS, B.A.

AFTER the decline of Vedic religion some great reforms were brought about by the Khatriya Princes one after another. Among them Mokkhalī, Buddha, Mahabir Jain and Basudeva Krishna were worth mentioning. The reforms introduced by their theistic principles were Ajibic, Jainism, Buddhism, and Ekantha Dharma.

The true history of the founder of Vaishnavism could not be found, but from the historic researches and inscriptions it is ascertained that the date of Vaishnavism must be later than 5th century B.C. It is a sort of religious reform based on Upanishads. Its early name was Ekantha Dharma. From the Narayani Akhyana of the Mahabharata as described in the Santiparban, we could know that sage Narada learned the gospels of this Dharma from Narayana who was the king of the island of Sweta. This Narayana was worshipped by Upachirabasu performing a horse sacrifice without killing the beast. Such rites were upheld and the sanction of killing animals in sacrifices by Smirti and Sankhya had been nullified by the injunction laid in the Santiparban in the verses 4th and 5th of the Chapter 887. On the other hand it had for its background the Bhagavat Gita. This Ekantha Dharma was at first embraced by a tribe of Khatriyas of the Satwata sect at the end of the 4th century B.C. Soon after this, a foreign tribe named Abhiras, i.e., the cowherds imported a new system of religion into it. With this the early Vaishnavism got itself mixed up. They introduced nothing unknown but the worship of Krishna, the foregoing reformer of the faith. The

result was a new cult—the worship of Krishna along with the great divinity Vishnu. Buddhism, which was the royal religion of India for nearly a thousand years and which resounded the world with the clarion call of Ahimsa or Non-violence by all means underwent various changes and corruptions. So long Vaishnavism was holding its sway against the onslaughts of Buddhism up to the end of the 8th century A.D. when the stronghold of Buddhism was sacked to the ground by the great Sankaracharya and his followers. The doctrine of Spiritual Monism and World Illusion was promulgated by him. Sankara's teachings were the potential destroyers of the Bhakti school of worship. So it was attacked from time to time by the Vaishnava saints, who introduced various systems of their own. This new cult of Vaishnavism is a modification of Buddhism, having for its authority the Vedas. The principle of Ahimsa with disregard for Vedic ritualism was largely elaborated in this new phase of Vaishnavism.

Moreover in 11th century, Ramanuja opened the attack on the pure monism of Sankara. He was born in 1016 A.D. and exclaimed, that knowledge without Bhakti cannot bring liberation. He preached the doctrine of qualified monism in the place of Sankara's pure monism. He was followed by Nimbarka who formulated the doctrine of difference and non-difference theory. He introduced the worship of Radha, a female deity, as a consort of Krishna. Nimbarka was born in 1162 A.D. and he was the first man to preach dual worship. After him, Madhwa or Anandatirtha, whose date of birth most

probably was 1197 A.D., had gone a step farther and separated his doctrine from all others by establishing in the 18th century dual-monism or pluralism, at the same time bringing into prominence the name of Vishnu as the Supreme God. Ramananda in the 14th and Kavira in the 15th gave a new turn to Vaishnavism. In the 15th century Sankaradeva and Damodardeva in Assam with their followers remoulded the scattered forces of Vaishnavism. In the 16th century, Chaitanya in Bengal and Vallabha Swami in Western India spread the Bhakti creed far and wide. But Chaitanya introduced the worship of Radha and Krishna again after Nimbarka. His cult of Vaishnavism is known as Saprem-Bhakti or Erotic-Devotion. He got his inspiration from the love songs of his dual deity largely composed by Chandidas and Vidyapathi. Both of them flourished long before him.

Thus the great upheaval of Vaishnavism overflowed India from 8th century to 16th century and has at last established its sway over all classes of Hindus. It has not only abolished human sacrifices but also checked animal sacrifices as far as practicable.

We have briefly discussed the rebirth and history of Vaishnavism in India and now we shall see how it had spread in Assam, the mother country of Sakti school of thought and Tantricism. The great pioneers of Tantricism Ganaminath and Abhinava Gupta were hailed from Assam or the ancient Kamrup. But Vaishnavism transformed this land of Tantras into a stronghold of Vaishnavism. The great reformers of Vaishnavism in Assam at that time were Sankaradeva, Damodardeva and Harideva. The first-hand knowledge of Vaishnavism was

gathered by Sankaradeva in his longest travel lasting for 12 years. During this time he had gone to almost all the provinces of India where Vaishnavism preached by his predecessors was reigning supreme. The gleanings of religious thoughts advanced by various schools of Vaishnavism inspired him to import it to his country suiting the time and circumstances. It was he who at first organised the scattered forces of Vaishnavism in Assam and made it a principal religion of the province. He is a radical but his teachings were tempered with reason and good sense. Unlike him, Damodardeva was a liberal conservative. He did not like to abolish the daily rites and rituals of the Hindus for self-purification. While Madhav, a disciple of Sankara, was a radical philosopher and a stern extremist, Harideva was a lover of innovation. All these personalities with different ideals spread Vaishnavism to the farthest limit of country and made popular and readily acceptable. A new Vaishnava literature sprang up and overflowed the country with Vaishnava prayer and songs mostly dedicated to Krishna. The Gita and Bhagvata were translated into simple prose in Assamese in the first part of the 16th century by a learned scholar and disciple of Damodar. He was Bhattadeva. His fame as a creator of Assamese prose will receive admiration from home and abroad.

The great scholars and men of literature who flourished before Sankara and his contemporaries smoothed the course for the turning point which they brought. Madhav Kandali was a great scholar of Vaishnava literature. He preceded Sankara by four generations. Sankara expressed his indebtedness to him in the

portion of the Ramayan, he translated into Assamese.

There were great scholars, literateurs, sculptors, artists, and music-experts before them. The baseless charges which some people level against the pre-Sankaric age drawing imaginary hideous pictures of Tantric-cult are without foundation. The notable contemporaries of the reformers were all gifted men like themselves. Ramrai, Anantakandali, Ramsaraswati, Bhattadev, Madhavdeva, Govindamishra and others—all were intellectual giants. At the same time no reference is made by the reformers in their writings about the evil practices of Tantric-cult.

The sad thing is that no historical researches are taken up to bring into light the pre-Vaishnava age. The verdict of history is that no great nation could thrive and hold its own against successive foreign attacks without a great literature and collective security of the masses. The people of ancient Kamrup, i.e., modern Assam were an independent nation up to the Burmese invasion. So they must have a well-developed literature, art and culture. The glorious antiquities of Assam have borne testimony beyond all dispute. There is not a single village where some beautiful images or engravings are not found. This historic land sadly needs researches and investigations.

We get frequent references in the biographies of these reformers that they were confronted at every step with learned Brahmin scholars. They had to wage life-long struggle against them and prove their innocence even before loyal assemblies. For fear of the collapse of the old order, some of them were persecuted and exiled from the country. When the turbulent waves of opposition were quelled, they got the

resting place in the heart of the common people. Soon they got admirers and staunch adherents to their creed. They glorified them and idolised them as an incarnation of Vishnu, the principal god of the faith.

But they had achieved a great end by converting the whole country into one creed and giving suitable place to the powerful parties within their fold. Art, culture, music and literature transformed into a new one infusing new vigour and energy. They simplified the very religion and made it inexpensive beyond measure. A new generation had sprung up and lent their whole-hearted support to this new order.

INFLUENCE OF BUDDHISM

The influence of Buddhism in this Vaishnava-cult of Assam is clear and straightforward. The "Sarana" is a direct imitation from Buddhism. The three saranas of Vaishnava correspond to the three saranas of Buddhism, e.g., Buddham saranam gachami, Dharmam saranam gachami, Satyam saranam gachami equal to Gurut saran, Dharmat saran, and Santat saran. The construction of Namghors and stup are also after the manner of the Buddhist "Stup". Some may deny it but this denial is without foundation. Not only the Buddhist custom and manners but also the principle of Ahimsa was wholly included in Vaishnavism. Sankardeva made several references to Ahimsa in his writings. In the "Bali-chalan", he writes: "Everybody should give up injury to others and should observe non-violence to all creatures and consider them so many Vishnus." We refrain from multiplying such instances. His inherent dislike for sacrifice and other Vedic ritualism proves beyond doubt

that not only he but his followers also were greatly influenced by Buddhism. They could not destroy the usages of Buddhist Tantricism. The Vaishnavas in Assam are not disallowed to take fish and meat and other common diet. Though Buddhism was banished from India physically but its spirit prevailed again in another name.

While Sankara blamed for destroying the Vedic religion and misguiding people in the Kirton, his disciple Madhava in the Namghosa included the name of Buddha as one of the ten Avatars of Krishna.

THE GOD OF ASSAMESE VAISHNAVA

Sankaradeva was a worshipper of Sri Krishna. He extolled the glories of Krishna in all his writings. This human-deity was the symbol of his cult. Though he deemed the Gita and the Bhagavata as the sources from which he drew his main tenets, he laid great stress in the name of God only and disregarded all other purificatory rites and penances. His God is partly human and partly divine. He admits the worship of two personal Gods; one is Vasudeva-Krishna and the other Vishnu, the invincible Warrior God. He could not conceive liberation without form; his God is not formless like that of Madhava. In several places of his writings, he gave lovely description of Krishna and Vishnu. On the other hand, his disciple Madhava concentrated his range of thought in a single individual, i.e., Sri Krishna. The Conception of God is supremely higher in the writings of Madhava than that of his Guru. While Madhava supplies mental food for the cultured, Sankara charms the masses by devotional worship of personal God.

There is difference of opinion as regards the principle followed by the preachers of

Assam. Those who are inclined to pluralism, try to draw them towards Madh-Acharya and invent a link with Chaitanya of Bengal. But preachers of Assam clearly show their love for Monism or more accurately to the Qualified-Monism of Ramanuja. As there is no mention about the Guru of Sankara, it becomes difficult to draw him towards Chaitanya who introduced the worship of a female deity (Radha) along with Sri Krishna which is against the principles of Assamese preachers. There is no mention of Radha in any of their speeches and writings. Though the Vaishnava sect in Assam has no continuous link with any of the four groups started by Sankaracharya, Ramanuja, Nimberka and Madhava, we may take it as a distinct group in itself, dating its origin from Sankaradeva.

Both Damodara and Sankara mainly gave importance to the name of God. The former also advised his followers not to renounce the daily rites and religious observances. He kept intact the Brahminical supremacy and made the Brahmins only eligible for the seat of a Guru. But Sankara democratised the very religion and opened the Guruship to all classes. Both were averse to sacrifice, visit to holy shrines and observance of penances. While Sankara made long journey twice, Damodar disregarded it totally. The Gita and the Bhagavata were the sources of their creed. They were highly attracted to them. When Sankara translated some portion of it into Assamese, Damodara got them both translated into Assamese prose by his own disciple Bhattadeva. So Bhattadeva is regarded as the creator of Assamese prose.

On the whole, Vaishnavism in Assam is simple and straightforward, devoid of unnecessary mysticism. It has shattered the mysticism of the old order and brought home the gospel of Truth and Life even to the rustic of a village. People do not find any difficulty in offering prayer to God and they can safely do away with intermediaries. It has become very difficult to make religion a profession now.

H. G. WELLS

By MARCIA DE SILVA

I didn't even see Wells frequently and yet I feel I know him as well, if not better, than almost any one I met in England. Often, when I was in his study, and had been listening to his talk, I looked at him across the tea-table and thought: "Why can't I believe you? Why can't I believe you?"

You would suppose the obvious thing for me to have done would have been to jump up and exclaim: "I accept your view of life, because really I've got no grounds for refusing it, except what you would call ignorance and prejudice. So tell me what I am to do now, this instant; because I want to begin doing my share straight away!"

But if human nature had induced me to do that, then everybody else who knew Wells or who had read his books would already have done it, and more than half Wells' battle would have been won. The fact remained they had continued unconvinced. I stayed sitting, and said nothing; but only thought: "How alert, he is. What tiny hands he's got!" For my gloves fitted him.

At that time his Autobiography had just been published and his past was constantly in my mind, so that his cosy room, its up-to-date fittings, and Wells himself in his present aspect, made only the foreground to a prolonged vista.

The face of the present Wells was lined with humour; it was spontaneous in expression; it was warm-heartedly responsible; it still had that kind of defenceless openness which is commonly associated with adolescence and which indicates a hatred of concealment and contempt for ridicule. You knew it was the true surface of his personality, and

not a mask. At the same time you realised it was not by accident that this face had survived.

If Wells had not remained the humorous and kindly person he had been born, his face, in view of what lay behind him, might have become one of almost any number of recognisable masks, but it could never have become what it actually was. Wells was a "Savant"; he was a successful man in the financial sense; he was also a man who had conceived an idea which he had preached with almost Salvationist fervour and thereby laid himself open to being laughed at—had, indeed, been laughed at. He had been born in restricted circumstances, in an environment which imposed every kind of frustration and had started life in what is popularly supposed to be the most demeaning of all occupations as a draper's assistant. Any kind of face might have come about as the result of Wells' history and achievement—he might have had the bloated and now insensitive face of the completely successful man, or have borne the apoplectic mask of fruity erudition, or the ghostly visage which suggests noble sentiments and lofty moral ideas, or the graven face of thought. Bearing in mind his origin and his early struggles, his expression might have become twisted as the result of petty jealousies and spite. He might even (awful thought) have half concealed his countenance by a 'torpedo' beard as had another philosopher of the same persuasion apparently with the intention of suggesting virility and force hidden and not otherwise discernible in one of sedentary occupations and not particularly 'masculine' tastes,

But Wells' face, thanks to his ingrained humaneness, has survived with most of its original freshness; it shows that its owner, in spite of his learning and deadly earnestness of purpose, still possesses the sense of what is irresistably comic in life. Looking at Wells, I used to think that if, after all, there was a transcendent God, Wells must surely be one of God's favourites. I could almost picture Wells stepping into Heaven and, shedding his cherished theory without a second's hesitation in view of the demonstration of its opposite, admitting at once he had been wrong; and then telling God how he had knocked the stuffing out of the Bishop's and God chuckling in approval.

It looked to me that Wells' eyes were always screwed up as if at any moment he expected to catch sight of something which would go a long way to prove the correctness of his calculations, like a sailor's eyes watching for land. One day we talked of Ireland.

The Irish are ardent but they have cold hearts. The English are taciturn but they are warm-hearted and kindly. Then, screwing up his eyes in sailor fashion, he added: "I can see no future for Ireland. Ireland is dead. That sort of national self-consciousness and aloofness can never work again. The Irish talk to you very beautifully but what do they mean?"

Thinking of Yeats whom I had seen a few days previously, I said: "Haven't the Irish produced the greatest living modern poet?"

"You mean Yeats?" he cried. "When I met Yeats, he irritated me, because he talked of nothing but fairies."

In Dulac's studio, Yeats had said to me: "If you want to write, you ought to write in your own language. Language

joins you to your own culture and to your racial past, without which you are bound to wither. . . ."

Yeats, lounging on Dulac's big sofa, rolled his handsome eyes.

Magnificently garrulous like an old Homer, he talked of wonders and marvels, half philosophy, half dream and half memory. He fumbled in his waistcoat pocket and took out an old bit of paper like a crumpled shopping list and began to chant some verses from it, which had been written by his friend Oliver St. John Gogarty. "That is great poetry?" he cried in a voice like a herald's when he had done reading. He never screwed up his eyes but they remained wide as if opened on a scene flooded with moonlight.

Wells, perched in his chair, said: "I think that even an imperfectly written statement, which helps things forward, is more valuable than a perfect work of art. It is better to be tenth rate in this line than to be a first-rate artist."

It struck me that in this he saw eye to eye with Gandhi, with Nehru, with Aldous Huxley in his latest phase; these different men, representing at the extreme ends, wholly contrasted ideas, were all united against the poets like Yeats and Tagore on this point. In Wells, this point of view was even more startling when he expanded it, because it had an almost religious intensity that seemed to echo back to Savanarola, though the latter was helping souls forward to a heavenly kingdom, and Wells' citizens to a world state.

But this thought that they had lurked in the back of my mind for a long time and that is why Nehru's words when he had expressed the same idea in Kandy, when he had said: "You

cannot lead a private life without treachery," had so seized me by the throat.

All these men scented urgency in the air; urgency to act in every way each of them thought proper, but agreed that action was essential to forestall disaster.

Gandhi, seeing the demands of the moment were imperative, had cried out in entreaty to Tagore :

If we do not take care, she (India) will collapse altogether hunger is the argument that is drawing India to the spinning wheel I have found it impossible to soothe suffering patients with a song from Kabir India is a house on fire when a house is on fire all must go out and take up a bucket let the poet lay down his lyre let him sing when it is over !

Huxley, in a milder way and with the easiness of the liberal intellectual, has written :

If men had always behaved like half-wits or baboons, if they couldn't behave otherwise, then I was justified in sitting comfortably in the stalls with my opera glasses. Whereas, if there were something to be done, if the behaviour could be modified Meanwhile a description of the behaviour and an account of the ways of modifying it will be valuable. Though not so valuable as to justify complete abstention from all other forms of activity

Beyond Wells' presence you could see his past; how he had started in troubled incredulity and staggered on through perplexity in which he had sought escape in various directions; how he had emerged at last with a vague notion which slowly clarified into a sense of purpose and a sense of all mankind bound together by a desire to give service unconditionally, how tentative theories had finally resolved into a complete conception of life as world order and undreamed-of fullness and happiness within human reach.

In his cosy room, sitting in his chair, as tense and full of latent activity as a freshly wound spring, he said, with complete certitude in his voice :

An imaginative mind could adjust, repair and extend the present order so as to make it a vehicle

thoroughly capable of carrying the world forward to an ideal order. We have the knowledge and the means to do so if we wish. The scientists know that such a thing is possible, but are too busy with ordinary, every-day laboratory experiments, to have time to set about its organisation. But the knowledge and the forms of this order are in their minds.

Clare Sheridan had told me how miserable Wells had been in his hotel in Russia on his first visit there, when the bells didn't work and he couldn't get his proper newspaper, and there was no bedside telephone. Now he was building himself a new house in which many of the modern advantages of applied science and scientific technique were being used. It was a thing like this, and to explore the possibilities of a new medium of expression such as the films and to press forward his own work of analysis, speculation and prophecy that made him happy. And what he wanted to do was to persuade the rest of human kind that their own happiness also lay along these lines. He was asking this generation to stake its happiness and the future happiness of mankind on the ability of men to perpetuate and to multiply such things as these in the belief that when all was said and done, material progress and increasing power over the resources of nature were the only things that mattered. He was asking everybody to have faith in their joint ability to achieve this aim, and education from his point of view was nothing else than the process of persuading children to *want* to achieve this aim.

It seemed to me that the happiness of those who would follow Wells—a happiness which was necessarily dependant on the whole complicated modern organisation of life—was very precarious.

I could only visualise Wells' future world-state as something on a par with, but more elaborate than, an Olympic

Games Stadium. And when we saw his own conception of it in his film, it was just that. It seemed to me that intrinsically and from the human point of view, there was no more advantage in shooting round the moon than in shooting along a speed track at two hundred miles an hour. It struck me that just as few people would get to the moon or Mars, or whatever planet it was supposed to be and get to know about it and enjoy it, as now get to Paris by the Golden Arrow, let alone the Rapide to Nice, or the Plane to Cairo. What I wanted to be shown in Wells' world-state that had "wings over the world" was what I never saw: the life of the ordinary peasant or worker and how exactly it was in any way more congenial and happy than what it is to-day, to say

nothing of what it was two hundred years ago.

Wells, looking out through screwed up eyes for a first glimpse of his promised land, seemed to me a man bereft of all sense of limitations.

Yet he himself, his warm-heartedness and sympathy taken in conjunction with his ruthless intellectualism, had a peculiar, penetrating charm—a charm which flowed from him as if accidentally and in spite of his intellectualism and was like the nectar of human frailty.

God needs men, not creatures
Full of noisy, catchy phrases.
Dogs he asks for, with their noses
Deeply thrust into—To-day
And there scent Eternity.

If it lies too deeply buried,
Then go on, and fiercely burrow.
Excavate until—To-morrow.

EDUCATION IN BARODA STATE

BY MR. RAMESHNATH R. GAUTAM, B.A. (Hons.)

Among the many achievements to the credit of progressive Baroda, those in the field of Education hold the pride of place. Baroda has witnessed from humble beginnings the growth of an educational system, the intensive and extensive ramifications of which in the course of a few years became an object-lesson to the rest of India.

A State department which spends Rs. 89 lakhs a year and is in charge of thousands of institutions and lakhs of individuals has of necessity assumed dimensions of an extensive administration in its own rights, whose sway extends over almost all the cities, towns and villages of Baroda State.

The Education department of the State apart from schools, includes in its orbit institutions such as training schools, the Kalabhavan (technical institute), the Museum and Art Gallery, schools of Indian Music, the Boy Scout organisation, the Library organisation, etc. Its extensive administration is in charge of the Vidyadhikari or Director of Education. The Vidyadhikari is assisted by a Naib Vidyadhikari. Six divisional inspectors, thirty-seven deputy educational inspectors, and two inspectresses of girls' schools in Baroda and Mehsana assist in the working of the department.

Besides these, to meet special needs, the department is served by special inspecting officers for the Antyaj, Urdu

and forest area schools. The gymnasium inspector and physical director and his assistants look after the physical education of the State. This, in a nutshell, is the group which administers this department.

The broad based system of education in the State and, the institutions which are the instruments of its execution, can be classified as under :—

1. General Education.

- (i) Primary,
- (ii) Secondary, and
- (iii) High School Standard.

2. Industrial Education.

3. Library Organisation.

The general system and organisation of the public educational institutions in the State provides for the education of women as well as of the classes of people generally known as backward and depressed and of defectives. It also embraces institutions for the training of men and women teachers. The State spent in the year 1938-39, Rs. 39,45,631 as against Rs. 38,65,184 in the previous year on this department.

The educational institutions in the State number 2,612 with an enrolment of 286,710 including a fair proportion of girls. The number of children of school-going age in the State are computed at 805,789, who are affected by the operation of the law providing for compulsory education in the State. Out of this number 268,586 attend schools, the percentage being 86.2.

The story of the development and administration of this vast and intricate system forms an interesting chapter in the annals of education in India. Its nucleus was laid down in the year 1871,

when Government started the first high school in the State, as also four Gujarati and Marathi schools with an enrolment of 666 boys.

But at the end of the first decade, i.e., in the year 1880, the figures were respectively 180 and 7,465.

The year 1881 witnessed the assumption of the reins of Government by the Maharaja at the comparatively early age of 18. He had a vision and an earnest steadfastness of purpose in pursuing the vision, which took the form of launching an organised and wide-spread scheme of education in the State. The energetic initiative of the Maharaja set the pace of progress and, in the year 1880, the number of schools in the State swelled from 180 to 444, of which 85 were girls' schools. The enrolment was 18,765 of whom 3,145 were girls. This marks an epoch in the history of education in Gujarat. India is in an unenviable position of a backbencher in the matter of literacy and the plight of women in that respect is particularly regrettable. Considering the strong prejudice which prevailed in society against educating girls in the days in which Baroda State commenced its activities in that direction, it cannot be denied that it was a bold step to take. However the courage thus shown has been amply justified by subsequent progress.

On the 16th of March 1898, the law providing for free and compulsory Primary education first came into force in Baroda State. Its operations were at first confined to a few villages but experience of its working having proved encouraging, its application was soon extended to all parts of the State in the year 1906-7, i.e., on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of H. H. the Maharaja Sahab.

Here are some figures which throw interesting light on the progress achieved in the course of two decades.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Enrolment.
1980	444	3,764
1900	1,175	84,239
1988-89	2,612	286,710

In this manner education has been claiming and receiving an increasing measure of attention from the public.

According to the 1921 census, the proportion of literacy in Baroda State among persons of over five years of age was 148 per thousand; this figure went up to 209 in the year 1989. There are at present 1,584 primary schools in the villages of the State where education is given free.

There is another important aspect of this activity, which deserves special mention in these days when removal of social disabilities is so much in the forefront. It is the anxious concern which the State feels for amelioration of the conditions of those sections of the people known as depressed and backward.

Boarding houses have been established for education of backward communities at ten places in the State and their maintenance costs the State Rs. 76,500. Antyaj pupils of primary and middle schools are being given numerous scholarships. Students from this class of people are given preference in Government institutions. Special scholarships are available for them in the Baroda College and all Antyaj students are educated free of charge. In the Kalabhavan technical institute Antyaj, Wagher and Muslim students are awarded liberal scholarships.

The total amount of scholarships given in the College and Secondary schools was Rs. 55,510 in the year 1988-89.

The number of Anglo-Vernacular schools and their enrolment in the State are respectively 86 and 21,958. Secondary schools other than those run by Government received Rs. 48,089 as State aid in the year 1988-89. The Government spent Rs. 5,29,622 on Secondary education in 1988-89.

The foundation-stone of the Baroda College was laid in the year 1879. This fine structure, one of the finest of its kind in India, houses an institution which has a noteworthy record of progress extending over 60 years. The College has branches of special and research studies. The expenditure incurred on the institution in 1988-89 was Rs. 2,45,585.

The other institution which arrests the attention is the Kalabhavan, which was established in 1890. It has 9 departments of technical study. There is a well-organised workshop attached to the Kalabhavan which, besides the work that has to be done in connection with the institution itself, turns out several thousands of rupees worth of various articles of utility for sale every year. This institution cost Rs. 76,515 in 1988-89 to maintain. Industrial schools have also been established in many other important towns in the State.

Nor have other branches of education been neglected; the Central Government School of Indian Music at Baroda as well as several other Music schools, the Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya at Patan, the Oriental institution and other institutions which play their useful part in their respective spheres bear testimony to this fact.

Baroda has long been well known for its patronage of physical culture. Physical education has been made compulsory for students of the first two years' classes

in the Baroda College. Specially trained physical instructors are retained in about 100 important primary and secondary schools of the State, and the number is rapidly increasing. Moreover, 128 private gymnasia in the State receive State aid.

At the end of the year 1938-39, the number of books in stock in the famous Central Library at Baroda was 182,198. Its reading room receives 291 Periodicals. There are numerous special libraries for women and children also.

Libraries in the State other than the Central Library have recorded during the year a circulation of 925,067 books among 171,676 readers. In the year 1938-39, there were 1,517 libraries in the

State. There is a library or a reading room in every village in the State which has a school. A very noteworthy feature of this movement is the popular circulating library.

With a desire to increase the incidence of literacy in the State, H. H. the Maharaja had a scheme of adult education prepared last year and without delay the whole administrative machinery of the Government was set busy, organising a vigorous literacy drive. Necessary assistance is being given to night classes and private enterprise is enlisted in the good cause. As a result, classes have for several months been in full swing in all parts of the State with attendance running into many thousands.

The National Income of British India

BY DR. GYAN CHAND, M.A.

IN this book*, Dr. Rao makes a competent attempt to calculate the national income *per capita* in British India. The subject has had for well-known reasons a special attraction for the students of Indian economic life, and Dr. Rao's estimate is the twelfth of its kind. He is well aware of the fundamental deficiencies of the material and specified them in some detail. He has done his best to make up these deficiencies by personal and *ad hoc* inquiries. The pains which he has taken show that he has no inclination to glide over the difficulties of his task or dismiss them lightly. All that he claims for his calculations is 'that they are less inaccurate and more conscious of their failings than those of previous writers'. This claim appears to be well justified

and increases the merit of his work and conclusions.

Dr. Rao estimates that the total income of British India is Rs. 17,664 million with a margin of error of 6 per cent. or *per capita* income of Rs. 65 with, of course, the same margin of error. Of this income, 70 per cent. of the population engaged in agriculture and allied pursuits receive a little over half of the total income. This estimate depends upon the estimate of income based upon the formula, area under cultivation $\times$ standard yield of crop $\times$ state of crop. Dr. Rao has given reasons for accepting standard yields as the basis of his calculations; but he does not meet the more important points of criticism urged against these standards. In the Rayatwari areas revenue-settlement may be, as he says, some check on these estimates, but in the permanently settled

* The National Income of British India. By V. K. R. V. Rao. Macmillan. 10sh. 6d.

area; occasions for their revision do not exist. But besides standard yield, the estimate of area and state of crop are also known to be faulty. For the permanently settled area, which is nearly 20 per cent. of the area of the country and nearly one-third of the total area of British India, owing to the absence of revenue staff in the villages, the estimates of agricultural production are grossly defective and in all cases 'state of crop' is estimated on visual basis and, therefore, seasonal variations of crops are allowed for everywhere in a very haphazard manner. These and other deficiencies, make even the estimates of agricultural production unsatisfactory. Dr. Rao's estimate is, however, as good as any other that can be made under the circumstances. That means that in estimating the value of agricultural production, one has to reckon with many intractable elements and any estimates must necessarily be guess-work to a considerable extent.

The conjectural element is, it need not be said, more important in estimates of income from other sources except the income assessed to income-tax and the value of mineral produce. Margin of errors in these calculations, according to Dr. Rao himself, vary from + 10 to + 20 per cent. He, as pointed out, has already taken the trouble to reduce guess-work as far as possible by collecting relevant data from different sources; but he himself knows that the available material in all these cases cannot be used for making estimate of any real value or utility. But Dr. Rao has done what was possible to estimate income from these sources and in the chapters dealing with the latter, the reader will find, to quote from

Dr. Bowley's Foreword, 'mass of important details treated with informed judgment'.

Dr. Rao's estimate of the *per capita* income emphasizes the utter poverty of our people; but of greater interest from the social standpoint is the distribution of this income, which does not fall within the scope of this book and on which so far very little work has been done. On page 189, this point is, however, referred to and some significant figures are given. The fact that one per cent. of income-tax-payers receive more than 10 per cent. of the total taxable income and 48 per cent. of the landholders in Bombay are cultivating only 9 per cent. of the cultivated area mean a lot more from the social standpoint than the estimate of *per capita* income of our people. But preparation of the estimates of the distribution of income present even greater difficulties than the total estimates of the total income. In spite of that well-qualified students like Dr. Rao have to turn their attention to this statistical problem and indicate the extent and range of inequalities in this poverty-stricken country. Dr. Rao's calculations show how much better off are the town-dwellers and persons deriving their income from services than the agriculturists, but their aspect of the problem is important enough to justify a far more detailed investigation than it has received so far. That Dr. Rao realises its importance is a very good sign, for the previous estimates of our national income practically left it out altogether.

The real merit of Dr. Rao's work consists more in the methods adopted in his calculations than in its conclusions. The calculations could not be made without introducing speculative elements and making assumptions for which supporting statistical evidence is lacking. But Dr. Bowley's compliment that defective statistics have been handled by Dr. Rao with intimate knowledge of their background and full understanding of their limitations is well-deserved. That gives to this study an academic value of its own and makes it well worth while for the students of Indian Economic problems to read the book with great care and attention.

RECENT CONFERENCES

[A number of gatherings, political, economic and cultural, met, at different centres of India during the Christmas and New Year Week. An attempt is made in the following pages to give a bird's-eye view of their proceedings. It is hoped the busy reader who may not find time to wade through many columns of Newspaper literature of these Congresses and Conferences, will be interested in the brief accounts herein provided.—Ed. I. R.]

National Liberal Federation

The Twenty-second Session of the National Liberal Federation of India met at Calcutta on December 28, under the presidency of Mr. V. N. Chandavarkar of Bombay.

Lord Sinha of Raipur, Chairman of the Reception Committee, in welcoming the Delegates, stressed our sympathy with Britain in the War, criticised the attitude of the Congress and the Muslim League and appealed to the people to forget their internal grievances for the time being and to concentrate on winning the war. There has been and still is too much loose thinking and the real end is lost sight of in the maze of shibboleths and communal antipathies.

•Our existence is now bound up with that of Great Britain. We stand or fall with her. We cannot allow the forces of evil to triumph.

I am confident that when victory crowns the efforts and sacrifices of the Democracies, a new era will dawn in this country and our people will breathe the breath of freedom and contentment and will be of substantial help in establishing a new world order.

Mr. Chandavarkar, in his presidential address, began with an exposition of liberalism confining himself to the broad principles which have guided Indian Liberal leaders.

They (Liberals) never made caste, community, sect, clique or party ever come before the interest of the country as a whole. The next article of faith in the creed of Liberalism is to work always and inevitably for Indian unity and Indian nationalism. Whatever mars that unity has, therefore, to be regarded in the light of Liberalism, not only as a step that is retrograde but as a step definitely meant to divide us in order to keep us in permanent bondage.

He condemned separate Communal electorates for Muslims and said:

I cannot help saying that he (Sir Pherozeshah Mehta) as an individual and as a far-sighted statesman would never have been a party to the Lucknow Pact of 1916, out of which, as we know today, as from Pandora's box, so many evils have flown to us—evils much greater than those sought to be averted by the now notorious Lucknow Pact. The pact was no luck then and it is less luck now than ever to us, the inheritors of that precious legacy from the past.

Turning the present political situation in India, which he described as the negation

of liberalism, he sounded a note of warning and urged that a definite time-limit is imperative.

Now the Government have promised to India the grant of full Dominion Status after the conclusion of the present war. It has added that the promise shall be implemented within the shortest period of time after the war. What is imperative in this matter, in order to convince people of the absolute sincerity of their intentions, is that a definite time-limit should be announced forthwith at the end of which the definite promise shall be definitely carried out.

The President concluded with an appeal for national unity and deprecating party domination.

We want India to be one nation and not out asunder into Hindu India and Muslim India. We want in India the reign of true democracy as it has worked in England. Our trust, in the first instance, is in that democracy and only under it, in the Government that represents that democracy in Great Britain and India for the time being. We do not want here the domination of one race over another, or such a rule by majority or a clamouring minority as will virtually take us back to autocracy or one-man-rule. We want no true interests in India to suffer but all legitimate interests to come together co-operating to one end, namely, the prosperity and uplift of our Motherland, that is India, and not this or that part, or province or frontier of India.

Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, moving the war resolution, called upon the people to help Britain to the utmost in the successful prosecution of the war. He made it clear that this help should be given in India's own self-interest as India's fate was indissolubly linked with that of Britain. If Britain were defeated in the war, India's dream of democratic self-government would be shattered. At the same time the resolution continued that the requisite effort will not be forthcoming from the people of India unless sufficient enthusiasm is created among the people by a change in the policy of Government towards India.

The Hon. Mr. P. N. Saprú moved the resolution dealing with the future constitution of India. It urged the British Government to announce immediately that India would be accorded the status of a dominion within the Statute of Westminster within a period not exceeding two years after the conclusion of the war,

The Resolution runs as follows:—

The National Liberal Federation of India, while desirous to satisfy the reasonable claims of minorities, is of opinion that the Viceroy's declaration of August last virtually gives them a veto on constitutional progress and protests strongly against the distinction drawn by Mr. Amery between the status and functions of a Dominion, which has created a grave apprehension in the minds of the people that what he called British obligations in India may permanently stand in the way of India achieving the same freedom as the other Dominions enjoy.

The National Liberal Federation of India strongly dissents from the recent statement of H. E. the Viceroy that the British Government can do nothing more than they have already done to enable India to enjoy Dominion Status and urges that it should be immediately announced that India will be accorded the status and functions of a Dominion within the meaning of the Statute of Westminster within a period not exceeding two years after the conclusion of the war.

The National Liberal Federation of India is further of the view that in the meanwhile the Central Government should be so reconstructed as to have, by convention, a fully national character. The Viceroy should be its constitutional head and that the British Government should not ordinarily interfere with any policy that has the support of such an Executive and the Central Legislature. The portfolios of defence and finance should be entrusted to non-official Indians enjoying the confidence of the country.

Speaking on the resolution, Mr. Sapru pointed out that

what we want is the reality of power, full control over our own destiny—the control which the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and South Africa have. Nothing else will satisfy the aspirations of the people of the country. Nothing else is worth looking at. What we are offered is not Dominion Status of the Statute of Westminster variety. What we are offered is controlled self-government within the imperialistic structure, and if the truth is to be told there is the political dead-lock in this country, because England is not clear in her mind what she means to do with India after the war. That feeling will not be removed by an equivocal declaration with mental reservation.

The resolution dealing with the question of the defence of India, which was moved by the Hon. Dr. H. N. Kunzru, urged among other things that the defence portfolio should be entrusted to an Indian member who commands the confidence of the people.

The National Liberal Federation, while always demanding a radical change in the defence policy of the Government, is strongly of opinion that the war has shown that for making adequate preparations for the security of India, it is essential that (1) the Defence portfolio should be entrusted to an Indian member who commands

the confidence of the people, and that (2) the Defence forces of India should be organised on a fully national basis. It recognizes the progress that has been made with regard to the manufacture of war materials but is thoroughly dissatisfied with the policy in other respects.

It urges in particular (a) that the policy of Indianization of the army, navy and air force should be immediately adopted; (b) that the distinction between martial and non-martial races should be done away with and the army recruited from all provinces and classes.

Commending the resolution to the acceptance of the house, Dr. Kunzru said that it was a matter of urgent importance that they should attend immediately to the problems relating to their national security. For a long time their defence arrangements were based on the assumption that in any major conflict, England would come to their assistance. But the present war had shown that this dependence on England was a source of danger to India.

Dr. R. P. Paranjpye moved the following resolution on separate electorates:—

The Federation, while fully ready to safeguard the interests of all sections of the people, considers that the aim of India's political evolution should be a democracy not qualified by considerations of race or creed and therefore the Federation is definitely opposed to the permanent existence of communal electorates and the present Communal Award; at the same time as it would not be practicable to effect this reform immediately owing to the existing conditions, it considers that gradual steps should be taken to eliminate separate communal electorates by having joint electorates with reserved seats for a definite period.

The Federation is emphatically opposed to the suggested division of India into Pakistan and Hindustan as being against the best interests of the country which, in its opinion, should be one single unit of Government for purposes of administration and defence though it will have necessarily to be of a federal character.

Another resolution deplored the resort to Civil Disobedience by the Congress, as it will still further complicate the difficult situation in the country.

The Session concluded after adopting a dozen resolutions dealing, among other subjects, with industrial development, Indians overseas and reforms in Indian States.

The Federation appointed Mr. V. N. Chandavarkar as its President, and Messrs. M. D. Altekar, R. R. Bakhale and M. C. Barucha as Secretaries for the year 1941.

The Hindu Mahasabha

A large and enthusiastic gathering of Hindus from different parts of the country attended the 22nd Annual Session of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha which met at Madura on December 28, under the Chairmanship of Mr. V. D. Savarkar. Great interest was evinced in the proceedings which continued for three days.

Dewan Bahadur K. S. Ramaswami Sastri, welcoming the Delegates, repudiated the allegation that the Hindu Mahasabha was a communal organisation and said that a community that wanted only its due share of its rights could not be convicted of communalism.

The President in his address urged that Hindus should get themselves reanimated



MR. V. D. SAVARKAR

and reborn into a martial race. He condemned the theory of absolute non-violence as an eccentric doctrine, harmful to the interests of Hindus.

We must whip up military enthusiasm among the Hindus, he declared, and that is the most crying need of to-day. It must form the chief plank of the Hindu Sanatanist platform.

Mr. Savarkar added that the results of participating in war efforts had so far proved satisfactory.

In examining these results, we must bear in mind that the British are raising these military forces and encouraging industrial development so far as it helps their war efforts with no altruistic motives of helping Indians. We are also participating in these war efforts, or at any rate are not out to oppose them, with no intention of helping the British but of helping ourselves. I have put the situation almost bluntly in the above manner to disarm the political folly into which the Indian public is accustomed to indulge in thinking that, because the Indian interests are opposed to the British interests in general, any step in which we join hands with the British Government must necessarily be an act of surrender, anti-national, of playing into British hands and that co-operation with the British Government in any case and under all circumstances is unpatriotic and condemnable.

Concluding his address, Mr. Savarkar dwelt on the political demands of the Mahasabha and expressed appreciation of the attitude adopted by the Viceroy and the Secretary of State in regard to the nation's demand.

I must make it clear here that the demands forwarded by the Hindu Mahasabha were not slighted by the Government. We asked them to make a declaration that within one year's time after cessation of the war, Dominion Status should be granted. Now, the Viceroy and the Secretary of State have both made it clear so far as words can make it clear, that India shall be raised to the position of a self-governing unit of the Commonwealth which they call British, but I claim it must be called Indo-British on equal footing even with Great Britain herself immediately after the war at the shortest interval possible. We wanted a word and they have given us a word.

In a message to the Mahasabha, Sri C. Vijayaraghavachariar, ex-President of the Congress, observed:

This Sabha, while anxious to protect the inalienable rights of the Hindus, both caste and non-caste, by no means aims anyway at invading or injuring the similar inalienable rights of the Muslims, Christians and other minority communities such as the Sikhs. It can by no means accept the doctrine of English Imperialism that the Dominion Status can only be allowed to British India on the agreement of all the communities and parties.

Next day's session of the Mahasabha commenced with the adoption of some non-controversial resolutions including one condemning the communal award.

The official resolution on the general political situation, which was moved by Mr. N. C. Chatterjee, was adopted by an overwhelming majority, only four voting against. The main resolution states that the Hindu Mahasabha appreciates the recognition by the Viceroy and the Secretary of State that the political situation in the country cannot be satisfactorily solved without the co-operation of the Hindu Mahasabha. While reiterating its faith in the goal of complete independence, the Hindu Mahasabha is prepared to accept Dominion Status of the Westminster type as the immediate step.

The Mahasabha, however, considers that the declaration made from time to time by the Viceroy and the Secretary of State on the constitutional question are vague, inadequate and unsatisfactory, and the Mahasabha therefore urges the Government to make an immediate and clear declaration that Dominion Status as contemplated in the Statute of Westminster shall be conferred on India within a year of the termination of the war, and the constitution shall be so framed as to ensure the integrity and indivisibility of India as a state and a nation, and while providing legitimate safeguards for the protection of the rights and interests of the minorities, it shall not in any manner adversely affect the rights and interests of the majority in the country.

The Mahasabha further condemns the attitude of the British Government in not making a clear announcement of its opposition to the scheme of Pakistan and therefore urges the British Government to declare immediately that Pakistan will not be tolerated and entertained by the Government.

The resolution also refers to the situation in Sind, Bengal and the Punjab.

The resolution calls upon the Government to recruit Hindus for the army and the navy and make military training compulsory for Indian youths and promote the establishment of war industries in India.

The Resolution concludes :

In case the Government fails to make a satisfactory response to the demands embodied in the resolution before March 31, 1941, the Mahasabha will start movement of direct action and hereby appoints a Committee consisting of Mr. V. D. Savarkar, Mr. Shyama Prasad Mukerjee, Dr. B. S. Moonje, Messrs. Khaparde, Deshpande, Bhopatkar, Bhai Parmanand and Bharat Miars for devising ways and means for starting and conducting the same immediately after the lapse of the said period.

Dr. Moonje, seconding the resolution, demanded that India, in order to be able to protect herself, should at least have an army of over one crore in strength. There was at this moment a need for militarization of the country and Hindus should

have a due share in the personnel of the Army and the Navy.

Mr. Shyama Prasad Mukerjee made a spirited speech in support of the resolution.

Another important resolution adopted at the Session was the eightfold programme of the Mahasabha as under:—

(a) To secure entry for as many Hindu recruits as possible into the Army, Navy and Air Forces.

(b) To utilise all facilities that are being thrown open to get our people trained into military mechanics and manufacture of up-to-date war materials.

(c) To try to make military training compulsory in colleges and high schools.

(d) To intensify the organisation of the *Ram Sena*.

(e) To join the Civic Guard movement and Air Raid Precaution organisation with a view to enabling our own people to defend against foreign invasion or internal anarchy, provided always that the Civic Guards are not used against any patriotic political movements in India or in any activities detrimental to the legitimate interests of the Hindus.

(f) To start new industries on large scale to capture the market where foreign competition is found eliminated.

(g) To boycott foreign articles to defeat the entry of new foreign competitors.

(h) To set on foot an All-India movement to secure the correct registration in the coming census of the popular strength of the Hindus, including tribal Hindus such as Santhals, Gonds, Bhills, etc. and to secure their enlistment as Hindus instead of as Animists or Hill Tribes and by taking every other step necessary to secure the object in view.

These few items will suffice to illustrate the lines on which the Hindu Sanatanists all over India should concentrate their attention in the near future.

Resolutions on Untouchability, Unemployment among Hindus, naval and military schools, etc. followed. The following Resolution put from the chair was also adopted:—

That every effort should be made to bring pressure to bear upon the Central Government to abolish the rule of recruitment to the Indian Army on the basis of martial and non-martial classes and that the Hindu community in every province should get representation in the army not below its proportionate numerical strength.

The President, in conclusion, made a spirited speech appealing for the organisation and strengthening of the Hindu Mahasabha branches all over Tamilnad.

Indian Christian Conference

Welcoming the Delegates to the All-India Conference of Indian Christians at Lucknow, on December 30th, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh criticised the policy of distrust pursued by the British Government who

had neglected to Indianise the Army or prepare us adequately against attacks by land, sea and air. Indian Christians were not permitted to enlist as ordinary soldiers alongside the Hindus or Muslims and this distinction was inexcusable.

He characterised the civil disobedience movement as a dangerous and double edged weapon but added that

there was not one who did not view with anxiety and regret the imprisonment of some of the best citizens of our country.

The British Government, he said, had blundered by not declaring at the outbreak of the war

that India would attain Dominion Status within a very early and definite period after its close; a pronouncement of this kind would not only have obviated the present situation but would have led to a feeling of responsibility among our leaders.

For the solution of the communal problem, Sir Maharaj Singh suggested Conference of the various important interests in India and concluded by saying that the Christian Community stood for a strong and indivisible India and would willingly part with special electorates and special privileges.

In his Presidential address, Dr. D. S. Ramachandra Rao observed that "sooner or later Britain would respond to India's demand and give her equality of status and power". He characterised Pakistan as a wild dream and said that he was certain that there were millions of national-minded Christians, Muslims, Parsis, Jains and Sikhs, who would work and die to prevent the Motherland from being divided and sub-divided.

It was a pity, he said,

that the Congress Governments had thrown up positions of responsibility, but it was a thousand pities that the British Government had stampeded India into the war over the heads of accredited Governments of Provinces without consulting them.

Dr. Rao pleaded for a definite time-limit for the attainment of Dominion Status and ridiculed the argument of communal jealousies as "a cheap and threadbare sneer".

The Conference concluded after passing a number of resolutions.

The first expressed grief at the imprisonment of several men and women in the country, especially the heavy sentence passed on Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru.

The second stressed the need on the part of the British Government of fixing a definite date after the conclusion of the war for the establishment of full responsible government in India. As a preliminary to the establishment of responsible government, a national government, responsible to the Legislature should be formed at the Centre without delay.

He next appealed to the leaders of the different political parties, in particular to Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah, to agree to the convening of a conference of various important parties and interests in the country for the purpose of framing a constitution on a national basis.

Dr. Rao, presiding again over the Azad Christian Conference at Lahore, made a spirited appeal to Indian Christians to take their stand by those organisations in this country which are fighting for the freedom of India. Dr. Rao said:

The country was sick of communalism which had over-reached its bounds and defeated its purpose, landing them in a hopeless mess. They must see that their aspirations were in tune with national culture and ideas.

He pointed out that the problem of poverty could be solved to a considerable extent by the introduction of cottage industries. He advised Indian Christians to discard the spirit of isolation and to fraternise with other communities.

The Conference demanded the immediate release of all political prisoners and urged the introduction of joint electorates for Assemblies and local bodies.

By another resolution the Conference expressed its determination to combat all reactionary communal organisations.

With the object of establishing contacts with progressive ideologies and forces in the country, a Christian National Association was formed.

Muslim Educational Conference

In his inaugural address to the 51st Session of the All-India Muslim Educational Conference at Poona on December 28, H. E. Sir Roger Lumley, Governor of Bombay, paid a tribute to the cultural background of the Muslims stretching back for many centuries.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, Chief Minister of Bengal, who presided over the Conference, stressed the necessity for an educational vivisection of India in order to train the Muslim child for his education in later stages and for the establishment of Muslim Universities in some of the important provinces of India.

Muslims should have an education specially suited to their culture and civilization and they should never forget that the educational structure, which is recognised as suitable for non-Muslims, is in many respects utterly unsuited to the needs of the Muslim community.

It will be recalled that the last plenary session of the Conference passed a resolution stating that, as the Muslims of India did not approve of the Wardha scheme of education in all its aspects, a committee of educationists should be appointed in order to draw up a scheme of education suitable for Muslims with special reference to their requirements and the preservation of the distinct features of their culture and social order. Nawab Kamal Yar Jung of Hyderabad was its President, and the Committee undertook an extensive tour of the country. An account of the work done hitherto by this Committee was submitted to the Conference on December 29. It was in the nature of an interim report and the permission of the Conference was sought for a year's extension for the Committee to conclude its labours.

The Conference divided itself into various sectional meetings. Addressing the Educational Section, Prof. A. M. Moulvi, of the Islamia College, Andheri, Bombay, deplored that the Universities had taken no notice of the alarming situation but went on manufacturing graduates like cakes and biscuits. He suggested that for the purpose of getting enough finance for the education of Muslims, they should bring

together the trustees of the various Wakfs all over India and make them work in co-operation with the All-India Muslim Educational Conference.

The spread of compulsory elementary education, the establishment of training centres for women teachers, the opening up of more primary and secondary schools and the formation and introduction of a better system of education were stressed by Mrs. Khadija Shuffi Tyabjee, M.L.A. presiding over the Female Education Section of the Conference. A large number of Muslim women were present.

Mr. Fazlul Huq, addressing the Female Education Section, put forward the suggestion that the Conference should set up committees in various parts of India, each Committee being entrusted with the task of tackling the problems of education in each particular area and of reporting to the parent organisation the special problems which the community had got to face.

The Meeting adopted a resolution requesting the Bombay Government to appoint an Inspectress in every Division for the Urdu and female education institutions.

A resolution disapproving the latest innovation of various girls' institutions of holding theatrical and dramatic parties that often go beyond the limits of morality and requesting the authorities to cease immediately holding any functions of a demoralising character was passed at a sectional meeting of the All-India Muslim Education Conference on Islamic culture and history.

The open session of the Conference resumed its deliberations on December 30th with Nawab Kamal Yar Jung in the chair. The Conference adopted various resolutions passed by the sectional meetings as also one accepting the Interim Report and giving it another year to complete the task. This was moved by Prof. Haleem of the Aligarh University.

Another resolution placing on record the thanks of the Conference to Nawab Kamal Yar Jung, Chairman of the Committee, was passed with acclamation.

Indian Economic Conference

It was a happy thought to convene a joint session of the Indian Economic and Political Science Conferences at the same place. Opening the Joint Session of the two Conferences at the Jaganmohan Palace, Mysore, on December 28, His Highness the Maharaja discoursed with aptness on the primary cause of the tragedy in Europe.

The Sovereign Nation State, exalted by metaphysical theories of the State, often exploiting racial prejudice, resting on economic self-sufficiency, organised for strategical purposes, using powerful weapons of modern science for destructive rather than constructive ends, based on mass ignorance and inertia and supported by the intellectuals—that is the primary cause of the European tragedy.

Therefore, continued His Highness, a new world order in which peace and security should prevail would not follow automatically the defeat of the Axis Powers.

It was certain they (the masses) would not tolerate after the war a regime that would again expose them to the evils of political conflict and economic insecurity. Unless they were assured that a new order would be established in harmony with their hopes and needs by peaceful and constitutional means, the millions who were bearing in patient hope the uncertainties and the horrors of the present war, would turn to those who made insidious promises of a short cut to Utopia through revolution.

In the course of his presidential address, Mr. D. R. Gadgil, Director, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, traced the progress of Economic thought in Europe during the last century and a half and pointed to the failure of *laissez faire*. This failure, he added, is markedly evident in the wages of industrial labour.

After dealing with technological unemployment with the land system, the control of investments and the location of industry, Mr. Gadgil went on to observe:

While vested interests in India are too ready to seek support of arguments that would obtain for them a field free from external competition, they often show themselves extremely impatient of the logical extension of these arguments, viz., internal regulation. An undue concentration of industries in one region is bound to accentuate the difficulties in other regions and a pure *laissez faire* attitude towards internal financial and industrial exploitation is likely to give rise to

forces making for economic and social disintegration over large areas.

The President concluded with a reference to the complaint levelled against the Indian economist for paying attention to the political aspects of the problems with which he was confronted.

The charge, if true, would merely show that some of us have a proper sense of the realities and would, in my opinion, be a matter for congratulation rather than complaint. Holding the views that I do regarding the role of the economist and the scope of economics, I need not say that I feel specially pleased that we are to-day meeting in a joint session with the Indian Political Science Conference and I trust that this Session is merely the first of a long and fruitful series.

At the resumed sitting of the Conference on January 1, several papers were read. Dr. J. J. Anjarina, in his paper on the Problem of Value in a Socialist State, observed that the difficulty of calculating the cost of production made it difficult to bring about a balance between production, consumption and distribution with the help of an automatic mechanism like the price system in a socialist state.

Dr. R. Balakrishna, in his paper on the Rate Structure of Public Utilities in a Socialist State, said that the inherent features of such industries need not or did not change in a socialist economy; for, public control and price discrimination were indispensable in public utilities whether under capitalism or socialism.

Mr. D. H. Bhutani raised a point of fundamental importance, namely, the qualitative difference between socialism and capitalism. While material efficiency was considered the criterion under capitalism, social efficiency had the place of honour under socialism.

Prof. V. L. D'Sousa explained how in spite of the ideological differences, the actual working mechanism was surprisingly similar in both cases.

Dr. M. H. Gopal dealt with fundamental concepts in his paper on role of cost in Socialist Pricing.

Prof. D. G. Karve, in his paper, remarked that labour cost could be calculated with very fair approximation if choice of occupation were allowed,

Dr. Gyan Chand, in his paper, said that the adjustment of supply did not depend upon the price. It depended on the nature of the commodities.

Dr. Dey, in his paper, pointed out that in the cost schedule, they had an extra item in social cost under socialism. He added that the interference of the State in economic matters differed between the two systems only in degree, and whatever the system of planning, the plan should be formulated and revised from period to period.

In the discussion that followed, Dr. P. S. Lokanathan said that it was impossible to do away with initiative in any form of society. The cost of service principle of valuation was more important under socialism than the value of service principle, because the losses were borne not by any class of people owning capital but by the whole community.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao suggested that the State should put necessities on the market just as any *entrepreneur*. The means of production should be the monopoly of the State, and the State should hire them out in a competitive manner after producing socially necessary goods.

Summing up, the President said that ultimately consumers' sovereignty turned out to be a myth even under capitalism. The resources at the disposal of the consumer were so limited that he could not exercise his powers to any considerable extent. The question of cost in a Socialist State arose when they took into consideration the wages of an individual with reference to his basic needs, and also because all the necessities could not be given to everybody irrespective of the cost involved. Such discrimination as arose from this type of administration might appear inexplicable, but they were almost an economic necessity.

Dr. J. P. Neogi, Minto Professor of Economics, Calcutta University, is elected President for the next Session of the All-India Economic and Political Conference to be held at Bombay in December 1941.

Political Science Conference

Dr. Beni Prasad, Professor of Politics, University of Allahabad, presiding over the Political Science Conference, observed that the Cabinet should normally confine itself to general co-ordination. The modern executive has to comprise autonomous boards—Planning Commissions, Public Services Commissions, Investment Boards, Railway Transport, Electricity, Marketing, Agricultural, Education Boards and others. It may be pointed out that experts are to be entrusted with departments of administration, not with the determination of ends and higher policy. The requisite technique is already in evidence in medical and transit departments in several states and awaits general application. It is also feasible to extend the system of associating Advisory Councils with various departments and their branches to ensure day to day criticism and fresh suggestion and to educate public opinion.

It is obvious that highly technical administration does not lend itself to popular control. But this does not imply a wooden, red-tape bureaucracy.

Administration would presuppose a dispassionate survey of social conditions and formulation of economic policies by boards of social scientists and their execution by scientifically trained officers. Already, progressive administration has demonstrated that the genuine role of the civil service is that of a learned profession. It must think out policies and reforms as a systematic whole and be able to plan on the large scale inherent in modern economics and transport. It is patent, however, that such an administration can function only when the mass of the people are enlightened enough to appreciate the value of reason and science, in place of prejudice and drift, in the management of their multitudinous services.

Constitutional development in the Indian States was discussed at the second day's sitting of the Conference, Dr. Beni Prasad presiding. Dr. K. N. Venkatasubba Sastri spoke on the importance of monarchy. Dr. A. Appadorai spoke on the new constitution of Mysore. Dr. Khosla, Messrs. D. N. Banerjee, A. B. Rudra, Gurmukh Nihal Singh, K. V. Punniiah and M. V. Krishna Rao took part in the discussion.

Prof. M. Venkatarangayya discussed the reformed constitution of Hyderabad. Mr. Paradasani then discussed Dominion Status and the radical changes in the constitutions of the States which would automatically follow the granting of Dominion Status to India.

The Indian Science Congress

The 28th Session of the Indian Science Congress met at Benares on January 2. Welcoming the delegates and visitors to the Session, Sir S. Radhakrishnan,



SIR S. RADHAKRISHNAN

Chairman of the Reception Committee, pointed out that with proper organisation and State support, India could become the chief industrial centre of the East. In our country

where there is a vast amount of dust and disease, poverty and uncleanness, the case for the spread of the scientific spirit and its application to daily life cannot be over-estimated.

H. E. Sir Maurice Hallett, in his opening address, referred to the application of science to the ordinary problems of every-day life.

His Excellency also discussed the painful question why the beneficent discoveries of science are being prostituted to the works of destruction and death.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal, in his presidential address, pointed out the practical bearing of science on industries. Referring to the value of research in industry, Sir Ardeshir said that

a substantial part of the export trade of India had been lost since the war. Science could help in the utilisation within the country itself of some of the raw materials which used to be exported. Researches were being conducted, for

instance, on the use in India, for lubrication purposes, of some of the oil-seeds of which the export had dwindled down and the surplus of which was likely to create serious economic trouble for the cultivator. Even a more acute problem was the stoppage of the import of many commodities essential for the economic life of the country such as machinery, chemicals, etc.

It was imperative that India should make herself self-sufficient with regard to such materials as were vital to the maintenance of her economic and industrial life.

He welcomed the appointment of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and said that

while concentrating on immediate war needs, it must also be in a position to survey the long-term industrial requirements of the country and to plan a programme to meet them.

The Congress met for a week under 14 different sections, including Mathematics and Statistics, Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Geography and Geodesy, Botany, Zoology, Entomology, Anthropology, Medical and Veterinary Research, Agriculture, Physiology, Psychology and Educational Science and Engineering.

Presidential addresses of these sections were delivered the next day, followed by discussion and the reading of papers.

In the Geology Section, Dr. M. R. Sahani, referring to the constant changes on the earth wrought by geological forces, pointed out that in the warring world of to-day continents, which aggressors sought to possess, are "in the infinitude of time—like the patterns of a cloud—an illusion and a Chimera."

Professor M. Raziuddin Siddiqui, President of the Mathematical and Statistics Section, spoke on the "Functional Analysis and Mathematical Physics". The President of the Entomology Section, Rao Bahadur Y. Ramchandra Rao, made some interesting observations on the periodicity of locust invasions in India, while the theme of Mr. K. Ramiah, President, Agriculture Section, was plant breeding in India.

At the annual meeting of the General Committee of the Indian Science Congress Association, held in Benares on January 6, Mr. D. N. Wadia, Mineralogist, Ceylon Government, was elected President for the 29th Session of the Indian Science Congress, which will be held at Dacca under the auspices of the University of Dacca, from the 2nd to the 8th January 1942.

Indian Statistical Conference

Dr. Sir S. Radhakrishnan welcomed the Delegates to the Fourth Session of the Indian Statistical Conference which met at Benares on January 8. H. E. Sir Maurice Hallett, Governor of U. P., who opened the Conference, said that science was no longer academic and must be applied to industrial development, to agriculture, to public health, and, perhaps most important of all, to the development of the Social structure.



SIR GIRJA SHANKAR BAJPAI

In his Presidential address, Sir G. S. Bajpai observed that the collection of statistics would be attended with far greater usefulness if its purpose and its processes were made intelligible to the ordinary citizen.

He epitomised the science of Statistics as the arithmetic of human welfare and explained how

in any given subject of social activity, the collection of statistics aimed at improving upon the results already achieved. In the industry of agriculture, for example, statistics had a great function to perform, which would be of real value to the economy of a vast area.

Pleading for more popular presentation of statistics, Sir G. S. Bajpai said:

A science which can only survive through popular recognition cannot afford to be esoteric. Readers of John Stuart Mill and Herbert Spencer will tell how lucid exposition can make the abstruse not only simple but attractive.

The Applied Statistics Session of the Conference met on the 4th January with Prof. K. B. Madhava in the chair. He opened with a general talk on the scope and utility of Applied Statistics.

Mr. P. N. Nayer of the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore, then read his paper on the interesting problem of the demand for sugar in India in relation to its prices.

A discussion followed in which Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis, Mr. K. Gupta of the Statistical Laboratory, Calcutta, Mr. S. B. Sen of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board, Calcutta, and Prof. K. B. Madhava took an active part.

Mr. G. D. Mathur of the Statistical Laboratory then read his paper on the Monthly Fluctuations of Jute Prices.

Mr. N. T. Mathew, also of the Statistical Laboratory, read a paper on Palmistry, which was followed by an amusing discussion.

The joint session of the Mathematics Section of the Indian Science Congress, was opened by Dr. C. W. B. Normand, Director-General of Observatories, Poona. Mr. S. N. Roy, of the Statistical Laboratory, opened the discussion on the Problems of Discrimination and Classification. Prof. D. D. Kosambi of Bombay and Dr. B. Ramamurti of Ajmer read their papers.

The Statistical Conference also held a joint meeting with the Medical Section of the Science Congress with Dr. J. B. Grant of Calcutta in the chair. There were many interesting papers read by Messrs. K. R. Nair and Sadasiv Sen Gupta of the Statistical Laboratory, Calcutta, as well as others. There was also a discussion on the question of the Application of Statistics in Medical Problems. Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis opened the discussion. Dr. G. Sankaran of Calcutta then delivered an amusing address. While stressing the need of statistics in medicine, he uttered a grave note of warning against thoughtless conclusions from curves prepared in haste.

Anti-Fascist Conference

The Conference of Indian leaders, convened by Mr. M. N. Roy, to mobilise popular support for War effort and to end the constitutional dead-lock in the country through the association of non-official opinion with the Central and Provincial Government, met at Calcutta on December 30. There were about 50 delegates, including Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Sir Sultan Ahmed, Dr. N. B. Khare, and Sir Henry Gidney. Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha of Patna presided.

Mr. Roy explained the objects of the Conference:

1. Defeat of Fascism and rapid development of the resources of India for that purpose;
2. Sharing the responsibility for the defence of India and for that purpose to urge upon the Government the need to secure popular confidence;
3. Realignment of political forces to facilitate the association of popular representatives with the Government of the country in the Centre as well as in the Provinces;
4. Re-election of the legislatures in the provinces, which are without popular Governments owing to the obstructionist policy of the Congress;
5. Establishment of emergency ministries in those provinces pending general elections;
6. Appointment of independent popular representatives in the Viceroy's Executive Council; and
7. Democratisation of the War efforts in order to make India's contribution voluntary, purposeful and, therefore, more effective.

After dwelling on the danger of Fascism and the wrong attitude taken by the Congress *re*: the war, Mr. Roy pleaded for a new realignment of forces.

This was followed by a discussion. The Conference discussed Mr. Roy's Draft Statement on the following day. Sir Henry Gidney and others took part in the discussion, after which a statement was issued. The Statement recommends the formation of

a National Democratic Union, composed of all independent public men and of such groups and parties as may agree to join them, who see the great possibilities of the present situation and have the courage and vision to utilise them for promoting the political and economic advancement of the people.

The constituents of the proposed Union will retain fullest independence as regards all controversial issues to be settled in due time.

The General Meeting of the Conference concluded after appointing a Standing Committee which met and elected Mr. Roy as the Secretary.

The Philosophical Congress

As Chairman of the Reception Committee, Sir Mahomed Usman, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, welcomed the delegates to the 26th Session of the Indian Philosophical Congress at Madras, over which Dr. N. N. Sen Gupta presided. We have already referred to their addresses in the last issue of the *Indian Review*.

Presiding over the Philosophy Section of the Congress, Dr. B. L. Atreya, of the Benares Hindu University, gave a general review of the teaching of Indian philosophy in universities. He regretted that little attention was given to philosophy by the Indian universities. The time had come, he said, when in every branch of philosophy, the contribution of Indian thinkers of all ages should be placed side by side with those of the Western thinkers and studied comparatively.

Twenty-three papers were read in the Section, including those presented by Prof. Suryanarayana Sastry, Dr. T. M. P. Mahadevan, Mr. P. Nagaraja Rao, Miss Agrawalla and Rao Bahadur P. C. Divanji.

Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao, of Mysore, delivered the Presidential address at the Logic and Metaphysics Section of the Congress. Later, there was a discussion on "Causality" under the presidency of Dr. N. N. Sen Gupta.

In the absence of Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao of Mysore, President of the Logic and Metaphysics Section of the Congress, his address on the "Proper Attitude towards Metaphysics" was read by Mr. J. N. Chubb.

The Psychology Section was presided over by Prof. M. Aslam of Lahore; Islamic Philosophy by Prof. M. M. Zuhruddin of Junagadh; and Religion and Ethics by Prof. R. Ramanujachari of the Annamalai University.

Later, an exhibition of Yogic Asanas was given by Mr. S. M. Srinivasachari, Student, Maharaja's College, Mysore, which was followed by a variety entertainment.

Under the auspices of the Congress, a public lecture on Vaishnavism was delivered by Kumara Swamiji Navakalyana-math of Dharwar.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BY "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

Time Limit for Dominion Status

THE Liberal Federation which met at Calcutta in Christmas week adopted a resolution urging the Government to make an immediate announcement to the effect that India will be accorded the "Status and Functions" of a Dominion within two years after the conclusion of the war. The addition of "Functions" to the old phrase "Dominion Status" is evidently suggested by Mr. Amery's ingenious attempt to distinguish the functions from the Status of a Dominion.

The Hindu Mahasabha which met at Madura, took a similar decision on the motion of Mr. Savarkar, the President. The Mahasabha passed resolutions demanding "Dominion Status of the Westminster variety within one year after the termination of the war", an unequivocal repudiation by Parliament of the Pakistan Scheme sponsored by the Muslim League and increased representation for Hindus in the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force.

The Indian Christian Conference, which met at Lucknow, was no less emphatic on the point. It stressed the need for fixing

a definite date after the conclusion of the war for the establishment of full responsible government in India. As a preliminary to the establishment of responsible government, a national government responsible to the Legislature should be formed at the Centre without delay.

There is thus complete unanimity as to political objective in India.

Ultimatum to Government

The Mahasabha, in fact, went a step further and added:

In case the Government fails to make a satisfactory response to the demands embodied in the resolution before March 31, 1941, the Mahasabha will start a movement of direct action.

The threat of direct action by the Mahasabha is rather intriguing and to some amusing. For, it is common knowledge that none of the leaders of the Mahasabha has any faith in non-violence, which has been denounced as at once cowardly and un-Aryan. What then could be the nature of the direct action contemplated by the Sabha? The President's laboured explanation is not convincing. But, however irrelevant the threat, it is an emphatic declaration of the Mahasabha's determination to pursue the goal that it has set before itself.

Diamond Jubilee of Tilak's Papers

Kesari and the *Mahratta*, the two papers (in Marathi and English respectively) founded by the late Balgangadhar Tilak, celebrated their Diamond Jubilee on the 3rd January. The occasion was marked by the publication of Special Jubilee Editions to which distinguished men in the country have sent messages of appreciation.

It will be noticed that the list includes the names of those who did not quite see eye to eye with Tilak. But differences over political or social matters cannot blind one to the value of Tilak's papers as instruments of national upheaval. To have survived for six decades is no small achievement for Indian Periodicals, but the Kesari-Mahratta Trust is an institution of organised activities: political, educational and otherwise. The Trust has been fortunate in its successor to the founder; for Mr. N. C. Kelkar, on whom the burden of responsibility fell on the death of Tilak, has sustained the tradition unimpaired.

We wish the Journals a future as useful and vigorous as their past.

India and The War

Britain is at present spending over 16 crores a day to meet the war emergency. As the war threatens to be more protracted and severe in the days ahead, Britain's capacity to bear the burden will be tried to its utmost limit. There is work enough to replenish the waste created by enemy action and all aid from Canada and the U. S. A. will be fully utilised for the defence of Home waters. The *Statesman*, therefore, writing editorially, seeks to make out a case for greater financial support from the Empire to Britain. It says that

if Britain is next year temporarily unable to pay for the Middle Eastern front, India, Australia, New Zealand and Africa should collectively undertake to foot this bill since the Middle East Front defends these countries.

The *Statesman*, however, admits that if India was to help thus, she is entitled to have her own Government and that she should be declared immediately a Dominion. The Viceroy then would obtain a representative War Government and through war-time collaboration of former opponents, a large part of the difficulty between the Princes, Hindus, and Muslims would disappear and a constitutional settlement would follow.

The Late Mr. Nayapathi Subba Rao

In the death of Nayapathi Subba Rao Pantulu at the ripe old age of 85, not only Andhradesa but the rest of the country has lost a veteran publicist who could look back on half a century of public service. He was one of the pioneers of the Congress and had served as its General Secretary, of course, before the advent of non-co-operation. Subba Rao had been a member of the old Madras Legislative Council and later of the Imperial Legislative Council under the Morley-Minto reforms. His speeches in either were marked by assiduous application to the details of government and administration. His note

on the Public Services was for a time the quarry from which politicians and journalists dug up their details. One of the founders of the *Hindu*, he was held in great respect for his robust nationalism. By temperament he was a Liberal and his place was among the veterans of the Liberal school of politics in India. Subba Rao continued to take a deep interest in cultural and social activities and gave impetus to a number of youth organisations in Andhradesa. The grand-old-man of Adhradesa was a gentle and kindly person, full of warmth for old friends, among whom the Editor of this *Review* could count himself as one; for whatever the business or urgency of his affairs, Subba Rao would never leave the city without peeping in at Natesan's for a chat with his old friend the Editor.

The Late Nagendranath Gupta

In the early years of the century. Nagendranath Gupta, who died at the age of 80, in a Nursing Home in Bombay, was a conspicuous figure in Indian journalism. He was at one time or other connected with some of the leading Indian papers in Northern India—the *Phoenix*, the *Tribune*, the *Punjabee*, the *Prabhat*, and the *Leader*. During the last 10 or 12 years, he lived a retired life in Bandra, but he used to write off and on to the English and Bengalee papers. A man of wide and varied culture, Gupta was held in high esteem.

As a journalist, he had the good fortune of coming into intimate contact with Vivekananda, Dadabhai Naorojee, A. O. Hume, Ranade, Gokhale and other stalwarts.

He wrote a number of novels and translated some of Tagore's works.

Gandhiji's Advice to Students

It is distressing to see students going on strike so frequently. Educationists all over the country have deplored the present tendency among students to go on strike even for frivolous reasons, and Mahatma Gandhi has done well to point out the bane of power-politics among students. In the course of a letter to Mr. M. L. Shah, General Secretary of the All-India Students' Federation, the Mahatma truly observes;

Students cannot afford to have party politics. They may hear all parties as they read all sorts of books, but their business is to assimilate the truth of all and reject the balance. That is the only worthy attitude that they can take. Power politics should be unknown to the student world. Immediately they dabble in that class of work, they cease to be students and will, therefore, fail to serve the country in its crisis.

He is so convinced of the futility of students dabbling in power-politics that he has no hesitation in tendering this advice:

Even if the whole of the student-world were to repudiate me for causes which, in their very nature, must be temporary, I am not going to be deterred from tendering my advice for fear of rejection.

May we hope that these strong words from one whom students have always regarded as their great friend and leader will not be lost on them?

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

The arrest and imprisonment of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, President of the Congress, under the Defence of India Rules, has deeply disappointed those who had hoped that under his guidance there was some scope for ending the dead-lock. For, next to Gandhiji, he was the one person in Congress circles who could have brought about a settlement of outstanding issues even at the present juncture. Gandhiji himself wrote some time before the Maulana's arrest, that if the Government were anxious to find a way out of the impasse, it was the President of the

Congress and the Working Committee that they should approach. In spite of Satyagraha, the President expressed himself repeatedly in favour of the Poona offer. Only a few days before the arrest, the Maulana said unequivocally that if Government could see their way to retrace their steps and accept the Poona offer, "settlement could be effected in two minutes". It is unfortunate that they should have let slip such an opportunity. We need not seriously discuss whether the Maulana violated the Defence Rules, though he pointed out that he had no such intention at the time of speaking. In the larger interests of the country, it is a pity that the one man in whose power it was to stop the Satyagraha and call back the nation to its duty to help win the war, is now put in prison. For the Poona offer held in it the key to nation-wide war effort, which it was possible for the Congress President to evoke. A simple gesture from the Government would have made all the difference.

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BRANCHES:—Adoni, Alleppey, Bangalore, Bangalore Cantt., Bezwada, Bombay, Calicut, Cochin, Coimbatore, Colombo, Erode, Guntur, Jaffna, Karaikudi, Madura, Nandyal, Pudukotah, Quilon, Salem, Tiruppur, Tiruvarur, Trichur, Trichinopoly, Tuticorin, Kumbakonam and Tirunelveli.

SUB-OFFICES:—Gudivada, Tenali, Bhimavaram, Repalli, Tanuku, Duggirala, Narasaraopet, Udumalpet, Devakottah and Maruteru.

Authorised Capital	Rs. 60,00,000
Issued and Subscribed Capital	Rs. 47,92,800
Paid-up Capital	Rs. 12,79,200
Reserve, Contingent and other Funds	Rs. 19,20,096

Total Working Funds on 30-6-'40 Rs. 5,15,24,973

All kinds of Banking Business including Foreign Exchange done.

For particulars, please apply to any of the Offices.

N. GOPALA IYER,*Secretary.*

U. F.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

President Roosevelt Takes Oath

PRESIDENT Roosevelt took oath at Washington at 5 p.m. (G. M. T.) on January 21, thus becoming the United States' first third-term President. "On each inauguration day, the American people have affirmed their sense of dedication to 'the United States,'" declared the President in his inaugural address.

On this day, the task of the people is to save that nation and its institutions from disruption from without. To us there has come a time in the midst of swift happenings to pause for a moment and take stock—to recall what our place in history has been and to re-discover what we are and what we should be. If we do not, we risk the real peril of inaction.

Japan's Warning to U. S. A.

"An urgent plea to the United States to 'reflect deeply on her attitude with truly God-fearing piety' in order to avoid risks of a world war which might 'spell the downfall of civilisation'" was uttered by the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Matsuoka, in a foreign policy speech at the re-opening of the Diet, at Tokyo, on January 21. He added: "Should the United States unfortunately become involved in the European war and should Japan too be compelled to participate in that conflict, it would bring about another great world war, both in name and reality, precipitating a situation that would defy all attempts to save it."

Thailand and Indo-China

It is good news that hostilities have ceased between French Indo-China and Thailand and an armistice agreement is being prepared.

Japan will mediate between Thailand and France. The Government Information Board announced that both the Governments have accepted the Japanese Government's proposal for a truce and its offers for mediation in the conflict between Indo-China and Thailand.

Rumania in Travail

The troubles of Rumania are not yet over. There are reports of civil war and an attempt at a military coup.

General Antonescu has ordered the army into action against the rebels.

General Antonescu says that his efforts to reach a settlement with the rebels have been in vain and that he has ordered the army to intervene. He made this statement in the course of a new appeal to the Rumanian nation.

General Antonescu formed a new military Cabinet on Monday the 27th January. All portfolios except Justice, Labour, and Propaganda are entrusted to Generals.

No member of the Iron Guard or representative of the King Carol regime is included in the new Government.

The Negus Back in Abyssinia

Emperor Haile Selassie has entered Abyssinia. The Emperor flew to the Sudan-Abyssinian border in an R. A. F. bomber escorted by fighters.

He crossed the Sudan frontier into his own country on January 15. When he set foot on his own soil, he was met by his two sons and representatives of the General Officer Commanding the British Forces in Soudan. Messages of welcome were extended to the Emperor by Abyssinian patriots and he was blessed by priests. The Ethiopian Ensign was then hoisted by the Emperor. After the ceremony, he continued his journey into the interior of Abyssinia.

As we go to Press, British forces are closing in on Italian positions about Agordat and Barentu in Eritrea. On Sunday the 26th, the Italians evacuated Umm Hagar where an Italian column is being closely pursued in retreat.

In the Derna area, operations are developing satisfactorily.

The prisoners taken at Tobruk number over twenty-five thousand together with twenty-two medium and twenty-eight light tanks.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

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- Jan. 1. Lisbon reports break-down of Franco-German negotiations.
- Jan. 2. M. Petain sends French fleet to North Africa.
- Senor Suner explains occupation of Tangier.
- Jan. 3. German air force in Italy.
- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Congress President, is arrested at Allahabad.
- Jan. 4. Aussies smash through defences in Bardia.
- M. Petain reorganises his Cabinet.
- Jan. 5. Bardia falls completely to the British: Italian garrison surrenders.
- Jan. 6. Amy Johnson, famous woman flyer, meets with fatal accident in Thames estuary.
- President Roosevelt addressing Congress, pledges more aid to democracies.
- Jan. 7. Fighting between the Iron Guard factions in Rumania.
- Italy reaffirms loyalty to the Axis.
- Jan. 8. President Roosevelt announces record expenditure of 25 thousand millions on arms.
- Maulana Azad, Congress President, is sentenced to 18 months' S. I.
- Jan. 9. Lord Baden Powell is dead.
- Mr. Churchill's tribute to President Roosevelt and Lord Halifax, the new Ambassador to U. S. A.
- Jan. 10. Soviet-German economic agreement is signed in Moscow.
- Siamese planes over Indo-China.
- Jan. 11. Gandhiji issues a statement re: observance of Independence Day.
- Jan. 12. R. A. F. attack on Turin and French coasts.
- Jan. 13. Thai Forces advance on Cambodia.
- Bulgarian Premier warns his countrymen of the tragic time ahead.
- Jan. 14. Haile Selassie raises the banner of revolt in Abyssinia.
- Jan. 15. Cordell Hull urges before the Lease and Lend Bill Committee rapid arming of America.
- Congress authority is sought for building 400 vessels.
- Jan. 16. Indo-China asks Thailand for armistice.
- Jan. 17. President Roosevelt in a Press Conference asks for full powers to aid Britain.
- Col. Knox urges passage of Lease and Lend Bill.
- Jan. 18. Working Committee of Hindu Mahasabha meets in Delhi with Shyam Prasad Mukherji in the chair.
- British troops re-occupy Kassala.
- Jan. 19. The New Fourth (Communist) Army is disarmed having been charged with revolt.
- Petain-Laval meeting.
- Jan. 20. President Roosevelt takes oath of office.
- Hitler-Mussolini meeting.
- Jan. 21. Japanese Foreign Minister warns U. S. A. against entering the war.
- Jan. 22. General Wavell's successful offensive: Tobruk falls.
- Jan. 23. Mr. Amery, in an interview with Sir Alfred Watson, says that the Viceroy's offer is still open.
- German Reich guarantees Rumania.
- Jan. 24. Hostilities between Thailand and Indo-China cease: Japan to mediate.
- The Negus enters Abyssinia.
- Jan. 25. President Roosevelt welcomes Lord Halifax in American waters.
- Mr. Wendell Willkie arrives in England.
- Jan. 26. Matsuoka warns U. S. A. not to interfere with "Western Pacific".
- Independence Day celebrations.
- Jan. 27. Japanese Premier owns responsibility for failure in China.
- Marshal Graziani is dismissed.
- Jan. 28. Sudden disappearance of Subhas Chandra Bose is reported.

The WORLD of BOOKS

BENES OF CZECHO SLOVAKIA. By Godfrey Lias. Allen & Unwin, London. 8sh. 6d.

The recognition by the British Government of a provisional government of Czecho Slovakia in London gives this book a topical interest. Twenty-five years ago Masaryk and Benes toiled in London and in Paris to secure Allied recognition of their claims to represent the Czech and Slovak peoples of Central Europe and of their efforts to build an independent Czecho Slovak State. Their courage and optimism were superb and their achievement one of the romances of the war of 1914-18. They began as a set of impecunious conspirators in self-imposed exile, heading a heterogeneous handful of Austrian subjects and they were pitting themselves against an empire. Their chances on paper were negligible. They had no status in any foreign country. But they had character, ability, strength of purpose and an overmastering conviction of the justice of their cause. And these assets, backed by hard and unremitting toil, enabled them to realise their dreams. In 1918, Britain, France and the U. S. A. recognised the Czecho Slovak National Council as the trustee of a future Czecho Slovak government. When, as the representative of a country which as yet did not exist, Benes took his place in the Armistice Conference in November 1918, he could hardly believe in the reality of what was happening. Three years before, he had escaped across the frontiers of Bohemia, crawling through hedges and ditches to avoid the police,

now he was sitting in conference with the mighty of the earth to settle the fate of the empires of Wilhelm and Karl and to sign the terms of their capitulation.

This biography of Benes tells in detail that romantic tale.

The latter part of the book tells the tragic tale of Munich and its sequel, six months later, when once again Benes had to flee across his frontiers before the invading Nazi hordes.

Once again the Czech and Slovak peoples are in servitude. Once again Benes, in exile, toils for their freedom and independence. But this time he makes a flying start and there is every prospect that he will live to see the restoration of the Czecho Slovak State and to reign once more in Prague as the President of a democratic republic.

This book is well balanced, carefully documented and clearly written.

INDIA'S CHALLENGE TO CHRISTIANS.

By Cyril Modak. Published by the Upper India Publishing House Ltd., Literature Palace, Lucknow. Rs. 2.

In rhythmic verse and vigorous prose the author, a young Indian Christian and ardent nationalist, interprets, as he sees it, Christ's precept and example in relation to modern conditions of life and thought, especially in India. He regards non-violence to the Indian (Satyagraha) and non-violence to the Christian Indian (Kristagraha) as a complete philosophy of life and conduct. The book is a challenge to all not to divorce religion from practical life, but to translate the highest ideals with the commonest actions,

THE CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION. In two volumes. By Sadhu Santinatha, Amalner.

MAYAVADA or the Non-dualistic Philosophy (Vedanta). By Sadhu Santinatha, Poona.

Seth Motilal Manickchand *alias* Pratap Seth is a wealthy mill-owner of Amalner with a passion for philosophy. He is responsible for founding and running the Indian Institute of Philosophy at Amalner. His munificence is also responsible for the two bulky volumes of Sadhu Santinatha, who undertakes an extensive examination of all philosophico-religious theories, Eastern, Western, realist, idealist, monist, pluralist, etc. and concludes that the mystery about the ultimate problems of our knowledge and life must remain a mystery and be recognised as the mystery. The fact that a similar, if not identical, conclusion was arrived at long ago in the history of Indian philosophy by Bauddha and Advaita thinkers like Santarakshita and Sri Harsha need not and should not stand in the way of a modern writer thinking out the problem for himself, especially when, as in the case of Sadhu Santinatha, he is a student of Western philosophy as well. His examination should be deeper and more suggestive than that of Indian dialecticians centuries ago. And with a little more system and accuracy, Sadhu Santinatha could have achieved this.

The second booklet purports to be a more detailed exposition of Advaita than is found in the two volumes of the philosophy of religion. A notable feature of some value is an appendix of 18 pages containing extracts from numerous unpublished Advaita Mss.

RAMAYANA AND LANKA. By T. Paramasiva Iyer. Published by the Bangalore Press, Bangalore. Rs. 8-12.

The author is a Retired Judge of the Mysore High Court and an eminent scholar. After patient research and laborious investigation over a prolonged period, into the geography of Ramayana, he has convinced himself of his conclusions. He holds what all people would like to believe, that Valmiki's Ramayana is an *Ithihasa*, i.e., a true history and *not* an imaginary *Kavya*. He concludes what few people would accept unless compelled to by unimpeachable evidence that Ramayana is a record of the struggle between the Aryan and Gond for Janasthan in the Damoh district; that Lanka is not Ceylon, or if Ceylon; that Trikuta Hill on which Ravana's Lanka was situate is the Indrana Hill in Jubbulpore district. The learned author's thesis written in racy, vigorous language collating a mass of evidence and information, evaluating the slokas in the Ramayana, sifting the original from the interpolated, demands careful consideration on all hands. The book also contains several interesting sketches and maps to elucidate the points discussed.

OUTLINE OF RATIONALISM. By Chandra Chakrabarthi. Publishers: Vijayakrishna Bros., 81, Vivekananda Road, Calcutta.

The book under review is an able study of the principles of civilizations and social institutions in life. A strictly objective evaluation of social institutions and religious practices is attempted. By rationalism, the author does not mean the purely exclusive scientific attitude. Rationalism is the method of Dharsanas of ancient India. In conclusion, the author states that Indian philosophy is a synthesis of science and genuine religion.

ITALIAN ECONOMY AND CULTURE. By M. Moulik. Chukervetty Chatterjee & Co., Calcutta.

Mr. Moulik's performance falls short of his promise. He calls his book "A Study in Economic and Social Transformations" problems. But there is very little in the book regarding the economic condition of Italy, the economic and social changes wrought by the Fascist regime, the standard of life of the workers under the new regime, etc. A few chapters on topics like 'The Art of D'Annunzio', 'Pirandello's views on Art and Life', and 'Tucchi, Tibet, and India' cannot be claimed to throw much light on Italian culture and social life.

The author has spent four years in Italy and seems to have a mastery of the Italian language and literature. We have a right to expect from him in the near future a more methodical and thorough book, which will give us a real and full picture of Italian economy and social life.

LEARN TO HYPNOTISE AND CURE THROUGH THE NEO-ORIENTAL SYSTEM OF MEDISM. By M. V. Ahmed, M.A. Kitabistan, Allahabad. Rs. 8.

Hypnotism is a new name, not a new thing. It was in vogue amongst the saints and sages of the bygone days. What the modern hypnotist does was achieved by saints by *dhyana*. On these Oriental lines, Ahmed, the author of this book, explains the theory and practice of hypnotism. He calls it by a new name "Medism". He brings ample evidence to prove the fact that hypnotism does not belong to the region of black art or magic.

The book consists of 10 chapters and they have been so arranged as to enable the reader to practise the art of hypnotism. The treatment of the subject is refreshingly original. A good portion of the book is devoted to practical hypnotism. Besides, the book has two lectures on Therapeutics explaining in detail the rationale and technique of psychotherapy.

BOOKS RECEIVED

RARE PROLOGUES AND EPILOGUES, 1642-1700. Edited by Autrey Nell Wiley. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London.

INDIA SHALL BE LITERATE. By F. C. Laubach. The Mission Press, Jubbulpore.

BANKIM, TILAK, DAYANANDA. By Sri Aurobindo. Arya Publishing House, College Street, Calcutta.

TO BEG I AM ASHAMED. By Sheila Cousins. Kitabistan, Allahabad.

THE PIECE OF WOOD AND OTHER POEMS. By M. V. Murthy. The Bangalore Press, Bangalore.

COME WIND COME WEATHER. By Daphne Du Maurier. Allied Publishers, Bombay.

SANGIT BHAVA, Vol II. By Maharana Vijayadevi of Dharsanpur. D. B. Taraporevala Sons & Co., Bombay.

REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED PROVINCES, 1937-1938. Superintendent, Printing and Stationery, Allahabad.

SPIRITUAL RELIGION. By Sir James Baillie. George Allen & Unwin.

CHANGING INDIA. By Iglealunnisa Hussain. Hosali Press, Bangalore.

THE DHAMMAPADA Text and Translation. By Narada Thera. Published by Mrs. M. J. C. Fernando, Charlesnagar, Moratuwa.

BUDDHISM IN A NUTSHELL. By Bhikkhu Narada, Vajirarama, Bambalepitiya.

SIGALANADA SUTTANTA. Translated by Narada Thera, Vajirarama, Colombo.

PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHOTHERAPY AND EVANGELICALISM. By Prof. J. G. McKenzie. George Allen & Unwin.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGIOUS TOLERATION IN ENGLAND. By W. K. Jordan. George Allen & Unwin Ltd.

THE STRUCTURAL BASIS OF INDIAN ECONOMY. By H. Venkatasubbiah. George Allen & Unwin Ltd.

INDIAN STATES

—10—

Hyderabad

SEA COAST FOR HYDERABAD

"You have rightly alluded to the importance of seeing Hyderabad represented in the proposed Eastern Group Council, and to what zealous officers like Colonel Slaughter would be able to achieve if Hyderabad had an outlet to the sea," observed the Rt. Hon. Sir Akbar Hydari, President of H. E. H. the Nizam's Executive Council, speaking at a dinner given by the Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce on January 15.

These matters, said Sir Akbar, have already engaged our attention; and if, having regard to my official position and the nature of the subjects, I refrain from making any public utterance as regards them, it should not be construed that those and similar matters are not within the first item of the Government programme of work.



SIR MAHOMED YAKUB

Sir Mahomed Yakub has been appointed Reforms Adviser to the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam.

Mysore

SCHOOLS IN MYSORE

Sir Mirza Ismail, Dewan of Mysore, once claimed that "for the educationist it is sufficient to say that we educated not only the first lady to take a degree in any Indian University but also the Premier of Madras"—(C. R.).

There are eight high schools for girls with a total strength of 707. Besides, there are about 120 studying in boys' high schools. The advance of girls' education in the secondary grade is apparent from the fact that the enrolment increased during the year 1937-38, by about 16 per cent., excluding the larger admission of girls into boys' high schools. There are three training institutions for women, two Government and one aided.

In the High School and Middle School examinations, the general performance of girls was better than that of boys. The total expenditure on women's education, including the University, was Rs. 7,34,792, of which Rs. 5,46,766 were from State Funds.

MYSORE STATE TROOPS

Owing to the mechanisation of some cavalry units of the Indian Army, the Government of India presented to the State 150 surplus horses for the use of the Mysore Lancers; 77 remounts were added during the year. There were in all 509 horses in the Mysore Lancers at the close of the year against the sanctioned strength of 522. The Mysore House had 90 horses on its strength at the close of the year.

This is revealed in the review of the administration of the working of the Mysore State Troops during the year.

Travancore**SRI CHITRA GUARDS**

Powers for the constitution of a body in Travancore, analogous to the Civic Guards, to be known as Sri Chitra Guards, have been conferred on the Travancore Government.

A proclamation of the Maharaja of Travancore states that these guards may be constituted either for the whole of Travancore or any specified local area. They will discharge such function in relation to the protection of person, security of property or public safety as might be assigned to them under the proclamation and rules thereunder.

In the discharge of their functions, the members of the Sri Chitra Guard have the same powers, privileges and protection as the police officers. The Inspector-General of Police may in consultation with the District Magistrate and individuals or committees nominated for the purpose, appoint members of the Guard. He is also empowered to call out for training or discharge of duties the members of the Guard.

T. N. & Q. BANK

It is understood that Travancore assets of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank (now under liquidation) so far realised by the liquidator in Travancore would be more than sufficient to enable Travancore creditors being paid at the rate of sixteen annas in the rupee and that steps for further distribution (beyond the rate of eight annas, already declared) have not yet been taken by the liquidator, solely because it is felt there should be a harmonious adjustment of claims of persons inside and outside Travancore.

Baroda**PAPER FACTORY IN BARODA**

Resources of the jungles in the Navsari district of the Baroda State have great industrial possibilities. It is the established policy of the Baroda Government to encourage and foster industrial enterprise in the State.

In pursuance of that policy, a large scale industry in the form of a paper factory is being organised by Messrs. Dinubhai G. Desai and V. N. Shevade, who have made arrangements to float for the purposes a joint stock company with a capital of Rs. 80 lakhs.

Government have decided to assist in this large scale enterprise by granting special concessions.

The Government will buy preference shares of the Company bearing not less than 5 per cent. interest to the extent of 20 per cent. of its subscribed capital on certain conditions.

BARODA INDUSTRIES

From the point of view of industrial development, Baroda State occupies a prominent place along with industrially-advanced provinces of British India and States. The number of factories coming under the Factories Act is 110 employing about 88,000 operatives. The percentage of operatives to the total population is 1.5 as compared with less than one per cent. for British India. The principal manufacturing industries in the State are:—

Textile, Chemical, Metal (iron manufactures), Cement, Salt, Sugar, Match, China Clay and Rubber mechanicals.

There are 16 cotton mills in the State. The total capital invested in the Textile industry, which is the largest in the State, is over three crores of rupees. The total number of looms and spindles working in these mills is 7,100 and 8,32,000 respectively.

Rampur

NEW POWER-HOUSE IN RAMPUR

His Highness the Nawab of Rampur performed before a large gathering the opening ceremony of the new power-house built and equipped at a cost of Rs. 8,15,000 near the Bareilly-Moradabad road in the industrial area of the city. In reply to the speech of Mr. B. H. Zaidi, C.I.E., Chief Minister, His Highness said: "This is the second big scheme of electrical expansion which has materialized during my rule of 10 years. To have travelled from a total generation of 8 kilowatts in 1900 to 4,200 kilowatts in 1941 is an indication of progress of which we can be justly proud. This sure indication of the increasing material prosperity of the State is for me a source of the deepest gratification which is enhanced by the fact that both the urban and rural population are sharing in the benefits resulting from this expansion."

Kashmir

HINDI-URDU CONTROVERSY

A solution to end the Hindi-Urdu controversy has been found by the Kashmir Government by excluding altogether the teaching of Hindi or Urdu as a language in primary schools of the State according to an order issued by the Durbar.

The order says that the only language which pupils in these classes will use will be simple Urdu, which will be a common language but which will be learnt in either of the two scripts, Devanagari and Persian. If the Hindi or Urdu language is prescribed as a separate subject of study in the higher classes, pupils who wish to develop their knowledge of either language intensively would no doubt have to learn the Urdu language in Persian script and the Hindi language in the Devanagari script.

Gwalior

VICTORIA COLLEGE, GWALIAR

The foundation-stone of the Science Block of the Victoria College, Gwalior, was laid by H. H. the Maharaja Scindia.

Exhorting the students to shake off communal tendencies, His Highness observed: "You should try to get rid of your provincial and racial prejudices." The temple of learning should be a place, where the landlord as well as the tenant, the royalist as well as the republican, the Brahmin as well as the Shudra are all united in invoking the sacred Goddess of Learning."

Cochin

COCHIN HARBOUR RAILWAY

The Cochin Harbour Railway has been opened for through booking of passengers, luggage and parcels, etc. Mattancheri Halt and Cochin Harbour Terminus are two stations on this Railway.

Ernakulam station is now closed for all descriptions of coaching traffic and is open only for goods traffic, the station thereafter to be known as Ernakulam Goods.

Pudukottah

MR. KALIFULLA'S CONFESSION

Mr. P. Kalifulla Sahib, Assistant Administrator-designate of the Pudukottah State, speaking at an entertainment given in his honour in Trichinopoly, stated that he represented the Muslim community in the Legislature for over 20 years. He said that Pudukottah was an ancient Tamil State, where there was no distinction of caste or community. He further added that hereafter he would strive to serve all communities. Concluding, he remarked that he might have offended some people in the past, but in future he declared that he would not give cause for complaint.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

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North Africa

INDIAN TROOPS IN N. AFRICA

"We are well and happy and we shall not leave here till this is finished." This is the message which Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan, Prime Minister of the Punjab, is taking back to India from the Indian troops he met on his visit to Egypt and the Sudan.

Sir Sikandar told *Reuter's* correspondent that he found the morale of the Indian troops on the Sudan and Abyssinia fronts and in the Western desert magnificent. A deep feeling of comradeship, he added, existed between Indian and other troops.

The part played by Indian troops at Sidi Barrani proved that the Indian soldier "is second to none when it comes to a real scrap," declared Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan speaking at a reception held in his honour by the Indian United Association at Cairo. The Indian troops, he added, were not only in good heart but also in good health.

South Africa

NATAL INDIANS' REQUEST

An appeal to the Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior to suspend the Indian Penetration Commission for the duration of the war has been made by the Natal Indian Association. The appeal states:

"In view of the recent grave war developments, the Natal Indian Association earnestly requests you to suspend the Broome Commission for the duration of the war. We wish to concentrate on the organisation of Indian Service Corps and other war activity in South Africa and the suspension of the Commission would be received by the Indian community as a statesmanlike gesture by the Union Government."

SOUTH AFRICAN INDIANS IN INDIA

It was brought to the notice of the Government of India that a number of South African Indians, who are at present in India on temporary visits and are unable to return to the Union of South Africa in time owing to the curtailment of steamer services due to war, stand the risk of being refused readmission into the Union as their certificates of identity have either expired or are about to expire shortly. Necessary representations were made by the Agent-General for India in the Union of South Africa, and the Minister of the Interior has agreed to extend the validity of the travelling documents of Indians who cannot return to the Union owing to shipping difficulties. On receipt of applications through the Provincial Governments concerned, the Government of India, says a *Press Communiqué*, will arrange to secure the necessary extension of time in *bona fide* cases through the Agent-General in the Union.

INDIAN MEDICAL STUDENTS IN S. A.

A Press Note states:

Indian medical students in the Union of South Africa had hitherto experienced difficulty in completing their education in that country for lack of facilities for clinical training. At the end of the first three years, they had to proceed to Europe or India for hospital training. Information has now been received that as a result of representations made by Sir B. Rama Rau, the Witwatersrand University is making arrangements for the hospital training of Indian students in the Union itself. This will enable the students to complete their medical course at the University.

America

INDIA CHAMBER IN AMERICA

At a general meeting of the members of the India Chamber of Commerce of America, Inc., held at 665-5th Avenue, New York, on September 19, a resolution was unanimously passed appreciating the work of the Indian Trade Commissioner's office in the United States, congratulating the Government of India on their selection of Sirdar H. S. Malik as the first India Government Trade Commissioner to the United States and urging that the post of India Government Trade Commissioner to the United States of America and Canada must always be filled by a well-qualified Indian, because only an Indian could truly and faithfully represent India, India's trade and India's interests and that the American people as such, and American businessmen in particular, preferred to deal with and come into contact with nationals of India, pertaining to matters Indian.

The Chamber requested the Federation of Indian Industries and Commerce in India and all its allied Chambers and Associations to take this matter up in their respective Chambers and Associations and convey their opinions and decisions on this matter to the Government of India.

Burma

INDIANS DEPORTED FROM BURMA

The deportation of 53 persons of Indian domicile has, it is understood, been recommended by the Tribunal appointed by the Government of Burma following the last Hindu-Muslim disturbances. Some of them have, it is learnt, been already deported from Burma. The proceedings of the Tribunal were held *in camera*.

Ceylon

INDIANS IN CEYLON

Mr. R. H. Drayton, Legal Secretary, Ceylon Government, in an interim report on the revision of electoral registers, 1940, with particular reference to the first registration of Indians under the domicile qualification, says that of 48,900 Indians orally examined, 19,900 were registered. The number of Indians whose names appeared in the preliminary lists was 66,200. Of the number of Indians who appeared for oral examination, 42 per cent. of the males and 52 per cent. of the females were registered and the remainder refused registration.

The report adds that while it is true that the registration was refused in a small number of cases for the reason that the person has not attained 21 years of age and did not fulfil the conditions regarding residence, registration was refused in the great majority of cases for the reason that intention to make Ceylon a permanent home was not established.

CEYLON AND FREEDOM

The suggestion that the people of Ceylon should join hands with the Indian National Congress in the struggle for freedom was made by Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, Joint Secretary of the Ceylon National Congress, in a recent speech.

He said it was not political federation with India that he was advocating, but that the cause for which the Indian Congress leaders were fighting should become their (Ceylonese) cause also. While admitting that certain amount of practical good had been achieved under the Donoughmore Constitution, he stated that only real political freedom would enable them to pay more attention to the needs of the masses,



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



INDIAN NATIONALISM AND WAR

The last issue of the *Asiatic Review* contains a paper on the above subject read at the East India Association by Mr. T. A. Raman. After pointing out the identity of interest between Britain and India against the common enemy, Mr. Raman observed how the very war needs of India may be made to subserve her lasting interests.

There is between the war needs and lasting interests of India a compelling parallelism of material interest that no politician can escape. In the vital field of defence the attempt must now be made to make India self-contained as soon as possible. Indianization on a wide basis, and not merely confined to the so-called "martial races", must now be galvanized into a new tempo. Then, again, in the economic field the war needs demand that India should organize and develop production over a whole range of manufactured goods. And a healthier balance between industry and agriculture is also the crying need of the country. Indian leaders are not unaware of this identity of interest nor of the dangers to India of allowing the war needs to be exploited to the advantage of sectional interests. Wisely and patriotically handled, the whole economic stature of India may be raised under the impetus of the war, and there is no reason why the healthy socialization which is going on in Britain should not be reproduced in India to the lasting advantage of the great mass of the people.

In the course of the discussion that followed, Mr. Raman referred to the Congress demand for independence and said:

Most Congressmen are hard headed realists however fire-eating their words may sound. Their acceptance of office in the Provinces and the very able way in which they worked that part of the constitution for a couple of years, prove it.

Whenever we hear the word "independence" trotted out, we may console ourselves with Gandhi's famous paraphrase of Swaraj as the substance of independence. When every Dominion declared war after parliamentary discussion and in the case of South Africa after considerable opposition, and when even today Eire is seeking within the framework of the Empire to maintain the myth of neutrality, Indian politicians cannot at heart doubt the reality of freedom under the Statute of Westminster. Practical statesmen need not be daunted by a word or a slogan.

Replying to the charge that he had evaded "the real difficulties" of accepting the nationalist demand, viz., the Congress-League differences, Mr. Raman said that he was painfully conscious of them.

So I think are most responsible leaders of Congress, patient and able men like Mr. Rajagopalachari. But I must add that we are rather tired of this continual harping on difficulties and differences unaccompanied by a single constructive suggestion to get over them. It is a little disappointing to find able administrators, keen students of India, men who have studied and served the country for many years, contenting themselves with enumerating and stressing these differences.

Congress demands that the intentions of Britain as regards India's status at the end of the war should be put beyond doubt. That doubt exists today in most of our minds. Rightly or wrongly, most of us do not take declarations such as have been made in general terms at their face value. My general attitude will, I hope, have convinced you that I am extremely anxious that there should be a settlement soon but, frankly speaking, I distrust any parliamentary talk about "goals" and "objectives" and "natural issues".

So there the doubt remains. Let us translate these generalities into concrete terms. No responsible Congressman has denied adequate safeguards for the minorities, or that a transitional period will have to be arranged for, or talked of repudiating financial or other obligations, or sought to confiscate British vested interests in India. Britain has undoubtedly a right to a say in the constitution-making of India as regards these subjects. But let her declare that, subject to satisfactory provisions being made on all these matters, India will have full self-determination.

RELIGION AND FREEDOM

Is religion an as yet unrealised ideal in the air? To say that it is, is a deliberate reversal of the truth, says Mr. N. V. Eswar in the *Social Welfare*.

We live it in our every-day life. In the name of freedom, we have to a great extent succeeded in suppressing the brute in us. There is no other greater object to be achieved in the name of religion than this.

Our emotions to-day do not play the same role as they did in the past. We in our practical life have come to realise the oneness of humanity. This spirit which is the ultimate aim of religion, is to be enduring and be productive of better results in the future, should be fostered up with great care. By staying the hand in the process of assimilating more of religion, the freedom of humanity is wilfully narrowed down.

The world to-day longs to leave the cocoon behind and soar up into the pure atmosphere of greater freedom. The realisation of this dream is contingent on the corresponding efforts made to stamp out the brute in man. In other words, the freedom for which mankind yearns to-day derives sustenance from the progressive assimilation of religion by man. Mankind will end by losing what freedom it enjoys to-day if it does not take to this road.

In our practical life, we have been able to incorporate religion to such an extent that its practicability is more than demonstrated. The plea is for an enlargement of the religious sphere, so that greater freedom for humanity to live and thrive under is assured, for religion is unalloyed freedom.

EASTERN INDUSTRIALISATION

"If Eastern industrialisation makes rapid progress, as it is doing now," observes Mr. V. G. Ramakrishnan in the current *New Review*, "countries like India, China and Japan have to replace their chief direct labour in the form of equipment in the beginning at least from the West." How are we to reconcile an increasing labour supply and a progressive reduction of relative labour through the use of machinery? The writer points out three possibilities.

1. There will be a growth of the consumers' goods industries in response to an increasing demand in the domestic market arising partly from the replacement of the goods formerly supplied by handicraft industries or imported from abroad and partly, perhaps, from increased individual purchasing power. The handicraft industries have declined and imported goods are being displaced by goods of Oriental manufacture, but any appreciable increase in the purchasing power of the masses is problematical in view of the depressing effect of the population pressure upon incomes.

2. A part of the labour will be absorbed in the development of capital goods industries to supply the machines demanded by the manufactures of consumers' goods and now imported from the West.

3. The labour and the machines will be used to produce goods for exports as they are now being used in Japan. It is in this development of exports that Oriental industrialisation becomes particularly significant to the countries of the West.

THE ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY

The *Illustrated Weekly* of India is, perhaps, the most popular among the pictorial journals in the country. By completing 60 years, it has turned a real milestone in its history. And to mark the occasion, the New Year Weekly appears in an attractive all-gravure dress. The usual features are there but the size is handier, there are more pages, more pictures and the contents are as bright and vivacious as ever. The Editor, Mr. S. Jepson, is ever on the alert for novel features to add to its attractions, and we have no doubt the New Style Weekly will become increasingly popular with its readers.

RURAL INDEBTEDNESS

Rural indebtedness is one of the major economic problems of India. In the course of an article in the *Indian Journal of Social Work*, Dr. P. M. Titus describes the legislative measures undertaken by Government to deal with the situation. According to him, the problem is not merely an economic problem but is a social problem as well. He gives figures which are startling:

The average *per capita* income in India is estimated at Rs. 67.5 per annum, or £5, as against that of the United Kingdom which is £76 and of the United States of America which is £142. The poverty of the large percentage of people is revealed when we notice the very uneven distribution of wealth. It is estimated that 5 per cent. of the population in India owns 35 per cent. of the wealth; another 35 per cent. owns 35 per cent. of the wealth and the remaining 60 per cent. of the people enjoy among them 30 per cent. of the wealth.

Alongside this abject poverty and unequitable distribution of wealth is the predominance of an agricultural population which is always in debt. Rural indebtedness is one of the major economic problems of India.

The causes of rural indebtedness are diverse, varying in degree in different localities. Indebtedness in itself is not bad, provided it is only temporary and is contracted for production purposes. But rural indebtedness in India is unique in its unproductive character and its ways of accumulation.

Very often an agriculturist is born into the legacy of an ancestral debt—debt inherited from father to son, generation after generation, without any equitable restrictions. It is seldom that he takes advantage of the legal provision that "the debts of a deceased person only pass to his heirs when these succeed to the deceased debtor's property and only to the extent of such property". Instead he obeys the moral law which regards hereditary debt as a debt of honour. Discharging of ancestral debt has become by tradition a moral and pious obligation on the part of any Indian.

In all discussions on rural indebtedness, we find debt largely attributed to the agriculturist's extravagance and improvidence. In this respect it may be mentioned that he is very often "more sinned against than sinning". By and large the Indian peasant is too poor to be anything other than frugal. He leads a hand-to-mouth existence. But religious and social traditions compel him to spend money on ceremonials at births, deaths, marriages, death anniversaries of relatives, etc. To be sure these expenditures are materially unproductive.

Apart from the measures taken by the Legislature to deal with this problem, it must be remembered that the economic improvement of the ryot is the basic factor that will help in the rehabilitation of agricultural industry.

Agriculture must be made profitable. Organization of co-operative societies for farming, marketing, financing and all other rural activities and processes may be the only stable remedy for the ills of the Indian agriculturist.

More than all, there must come a revolution in the thinking of the Indian ryot. He must be drawn out of his defeatist attitude towards life. The "will to live" and the desire for the "abundant life" must be instilled into his mind so that he may make greater efforts and face the struggle in a more hopeful manner.

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SOLVING THE IMPASSE

"If India is to be a full-fledged Dominion after the war, why hesitate to say so and why not do something now as an earnest of the things to come, even though it may not be perfect in every respect," observes Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru in an article to the *Twentieth Century* for January under the caption "The Need of the Hour".

While he reiterates that it is for the Indian political leaders to put forth a joint demand, the Government have also, he emphasises, a responsibility.

Supposing the Congress, the Moslem League, the Hindu Mahasabha, the Sikh and the Depressed Classes," he asks, "are unwilling to come to a settlement or cannot come to a settlement, can Mr. Amery and Lord Linlithgow afford to say that as Indian leaders have not met together and arrived at a settlement, things must go on as they have been going on during the last twelve months or more?" Sir Tej Bahadur answering the question, says: "It is at this stage that British responsibility will arise even though hurtful to our pride."

The mere addition of a few members to the Executive Council, Sir Tej Bahadur stresses, will not do. "What is necessary," he says,

is that the men whom you call into the Government should work as a team, that is, as a Cabinet even though, in the existing circumstances, they may owe responsibility to the Crown.

Suggesting that Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah should meet, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru observes:

I believe that if we once shed out party prejudices, we would realise that both the Mahatma and Mr. Jinnah are patriots. I cannot believe that Mr. Jinnah is, as represented in certain quarters, so blind to his sense of responsibility to the country or so inflated with his position as the leader of the Moslem League that he will not respond to the call of duty. Similarly, so far as the Mahatma is concerned, it would be absurd for any one to challenge or even to doubt his patriotism or to doubt that he has the power to influence a large mass of Indian opinion at the present day. I do not conceal the fact that there are many things in his philosophy of life and politics which

do not appeal to me, but that too has not affected my personal regard for him. He is a big enough man to extend his hand of fellowship to Mr. Jinnah in the common interests of the country.

Where and when the interests of the country are at stake, party shibboleths and party slogans must dwindle into insignificance and bide their time before they can assert themselves. This, therefore, is not an occasion when any third party, however well intentioned, can usefully intervene. It should be left to the good sense, the patriotism and the far-sightedness of both to break the ice.

THE ART-CURE FOR CANKER

Dr. J. H. Cousins, the well-known Art Adviser to the Travancore Government, in the course of a Radio Talk published in the *Theosophist*, says that the common characteristic of all form of canker—physical, mental and emotional, is due to disintegration or disunity.

"To this process of decay, art in all its forms opposes the contrary process of integration or unity. The creation of a piece of art by a child no less than by a master necessitates the assembling of appropriate details and their arrangement in graded affinities with a central idea and with one another. The materials and technique of a particular art require acceptance of both their potentialities and their limitations. For this acceptance they return the joy of self-expression and the wonder of self-discovery, from which comes personal peace; and art-creation gives also a sympathetic and understanding interest in the creative expression of other individuals and nations from which will come a disposition towards social and international peace. And the discipline and high qualities of art-activity will pass over into the other activities of life and in due time make them, if not works of art, at least artistic. Hence the necessity, if humanity is to be rescued from cankerous disintegration, of having the arts given a central place in the education of the young."

WIN INDIA TO BRITAIN'S SIDE

In the course of a vigorous article in *Time and Tide*, Edward Thompson visualises the distant future when this uncertain war has ended. As regards this war, he points out that it is now geographically cut into two and its whole Middle Eastern Half must be largely waged from India as its base. Yet

if you continue to drift, while masses of men and women, who are India's natural leaders, fill the prisons, you will need more luck than the gods have ever given any nation yet to wage this war satisfactorily. You have had some shocks already. Are you dead sure that the future holds no more? If you can guarantee no Sommes or Passchendaeles or Galipolis or Norways or Dunkirks—not even a First and Second Gaza—then it may be that you can push the business through on this policy of drift in face of growing recalcitrance and sullenness in India and can win victory though at a far higher price than need have been paid. But suppose that Gibraltar is attacked and that we do not get the French African colonies on our side?

As regards the minorities, the Princes have been excellently looked after for over a century (their people hardly at all). They hold strong cards and can look after themselves very well indeed when the Dominion Status Constitution is framed finally. As regards the untouchables, we have done precious little for them in the past.

"You will see that a settlement is still possible," concludes Mr. Thompson,

which will bring in, Congress, as our enthusiastic friend Rajagopalachari, ex-Premier of Madras, has said that he would guarantee, if a National Government at the Centre were formed, to persuade his colleagues of the Working Committee to consent to a Muslim Premier, with that Premier's right to choose his Cabinet. That is a sweepingly generous offer, but I believe he could get it implemented.

But what is British Labour doing? While in opposition it talks of what it will do for India; but now that it has power, it does nothing and seems to have no policy outside this island. Why not win this war as quickly and cheaply as possible and now—while men's spirits are finally stirred and to fine issues—bring in, India as our comrade and raise our whole cause on to a nobler plane and set up something all nations can see as a light for the whole post-war future? Either this war will shatter the Empire, or it will make it something greater and nobler than Time has ever dreamed any Empire could be.

THE WAR WILL BE WON

The *Nineteenth Century* for August contains an illuminating article by H. C. Fenaby and George Slocombe on the Mediterranean situation. The joint writers aver that Egypt and the Suez Canal must be defended at Gibraltar and it is to the Mediterranean we must carry the war, a sea-borne war, upon the enemies' weak point.

In this war the Mediterranean is the strategic centre. It is there that the war can be won by us, and won before 1942, if we will but take the offensive vigorously.

Italy is the weakest point in the Axis, and it is through the smashing of Italy that we shall accomplish the smashing of Hitler. An aggressive and sustained offensive against Italy is the true strategy for Britain now. There is no need to sit waiting for the great German invasion. If that is attempted, the naval forces in home waters and the armies in Britain can quite effectively deal with it. But in the meantime we have great forces assembled in the Mediterranean and even without the help of the French Navy we are in control of that sea.

The Mediterranean is not the North Sea. It is almost tideless and remarkably free from fog or mist. Its waters are transparent, say the writers.

A German or Italian submarine lying fathoms deep is clearly visible to an airman and can be easily destroyed. Even at night visibility on the surface is very great. Troop transports could not evade detection, and smoke screens in those blue and calm waters under an immense blue sky would merely betray the presence of invader to a British reconnaissance aircraft cruising within a radius of 50 miles.

AHIMSA IN WORLD RECONSTRUCTION

Ever since Mahatma Gandhi promulgated his doctrine of Ahimsa as a panacea for all the present world troubles, many thinkers have written on this subject. The *Calcutta Review* for December contains a thoughtful article by Dr. H. C. Mukerjee, who says that "if the spirit of Ahimsa is imbibed and given effect to to-day and if this spirit is, through its natural human appeal, imbibed in a larger and still larger measure by each generation, there is not the slightest doubt that the pace of man's progress will quicken from more to more and must lead to but one result: the establishment of the Kingdom of God in this world." Dr. Mukerjee writes;

It has to be admitted that in any attempt at a long vision of the future evolution of the world towards an ideal, we have to take into account not only the worst but also the best of which humanity at large is capable. Just as on the one hand it is possible that the present war, which is spread over the whole world, may have the effect of making it reel back to barbarism, so on the other hand it is no less likely that, with the passage of time with set-backs here and there, the principle of Ahimsa will slowly but none the less surely gather increasing momentum, and some day, however distant, we shall have reign of justice and peace.

From this point of view, says the writer, Mahatma Gandhi is a moral genius of the highest order; for he faced the risk of being regarded as a theorist or rather as a crank when he preached Ahimsa as the only satisfactory solution for all troubles. Events, however, have proved

that he had not erred in his estimate of the fundamental goodness of human nature. The fact that in spite of the very high spiritual demands it makes on humanity, he has been able

to command the loyalty of so many and, on the whole, such faithful followers is sufficient proof that the lesson he has been teaching India and through her the world at large, is a latent truth inherent in the nature of humanity, that with an example before it this truth is not beyond its understanding and lastly, that, given the right lead, it is possible of adoption by very large masses of men for the attainment of definitely worthy aims.

HINDUSTANI AND THE SCREEN

In the *Aryan Path* for January, Mr. K. Ahmad Abbas points out that every one will be quite good at Hindustani if the Cinema is used as a proper medium of instruction. The writer says that Hindustani films are very popular even among the people who are ignorant of that language.

The contribution of the Indian screen to the evolution of Hindustani as the national language is twofold. Not only has it helped, as already indicated, to assimilate a large number of simple, commonly understood words into a new vocabulary but, what is even more important, it has familiarized millions of people in the non-Hindustani-speaking areas with this vocabulary. Ten years ago it was rare to find a South Indian able to understand and speak even the simplest phrase in Hindustani. It was practically impossible for a visitor from Delhi to make himself understood in Bangalore, Hyderabad (Sind) or Chittagong. Today the situation has vastly changed and thanks to the inroads of Hindustani films in non-Hindustani-speaking provinces, it is possible for a Panjabi and a Tamilian to meet on the streets of Nagpur and to converse with each other.

Tens of thousands of people whose mother tongue is Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Sindhi, Panjabi, are daily thronging their local Cinemas showing Hindustani films and, lured by the glamour of Kanabala, the melody of Saigal and the histrionic ability of Devika Rani, they are being drawn into the ranks of the votaries of Hindustani. The influence of the Hindustani films can be gauged from the fact that the films in provincial languages have totally failed to challenge their supremacy and today a Hindustani film makes far more money in South India than a Tamil or a Telugu film.

IRON AND INDIA

The *Readers' Digest* for January has an interesting account of Sir A. R. Dalal's address to the Bombay Rotary Club on "India produced Iron 8000 years Ago". Sir Dalal at the outset points out that the art of manufacturing iron was known in India at least a thousand years before Christ, and the famous Damascus blades of the Saracens were made of Indian material. The first successful attempt to manufacture steel in India on a commercial scale was made by the Tata Iron and Steel Company. It is interesting to note that

the original project was to make 120,000 tons of pig iron and 70,000 tons of steel per year. Last year the Company made 1,140,000 tons of pig iron and 770,000 tons of steel. The Company has a large expansion programme in hand. When it is completed, it would manufacture over a million and a quarter tons of iron and about 850 to 900 thousand tons of steel per year. The capacity of the Steel Corporation of Bengal, which began manufacture of steel last year, was 200 to 250 thousand tons, and between them the two Companies could supply the whole of the demand of India in the ordinary forms of steel and have a small surplus for export.

The town of Jamshedpur has a population of over 100,000 souls, and the Company has employed nearly 30,000 men at Jamshedpur and their wage bill comes to Rs. 15 lakhs a month. We pay nearly Rs. 2½ crores in freight to the railways and nearly Rs. 2 crores in taxation to the Government of India. All the amenities of the town, which are elsewhere provided by the Government or the Municipality such as education, sanitation, water-supply and drainage are provided by the Company, which has built over 8,000 quarters for its workmen and maintained a hospital of 177 beds besides a number of dispensaries.

As for war materials and other things, Sir Dalal says:

We have besides developed armour plate steel for the manufacture of armoured vehicles as well as other forms of special steel for steel helmets, armour piercing bullets, etc. We will shortly complete a benzol plant, which would enable high explosives to be manufactured in India.

FREE INDIA

We congratulate Mr. E. R. Govindan on the completion of the first year of his Weekly—*Free India*, (Madras). The Annual Number, which is published to mark the occasion, is replete with articles and pictures of topical interest. There is something touching every phase of life—politics; biography, fiction, the screen, music and the arts—affording plenty of light literature for the lay reader. The pictorial record of certain striking episodes in the year is a happy idea. Dr. Pattabhi, who has just completed his three score, writes appropriately enough on what he calls "The last Alpina of Life's Music", while Mr. Pothan Joseph pleads for the promotion of Coalition Cabinets. In the same issue, Khassa Subba Rau proves the futility of composite cabinets. Altogether we have a good and varied entertainment in this Annual which is priced annas two only.

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PRYING INTO THE FUTURE

An interesting article on "Fortune-telling Fact or Fraud", condensed from the *Rosicrucian Digest*, is published in the December Number of *World Digest*.

The fact that so many constantly seek to know what the morrow will reveal indicates that either they possess courageous spirits or possibly the belief that the unfavourable may be evaded. If fate is absolute and the course of man's life or his destiny has been created for him and he must pursue it like a ball rolling down a bowling alley, then it avails him little to know of it in advance. Such knowledge could not make it possible to escape misfortunes, for such would be the natural course of events of his life. On the other hand, if man can exercise his reason and power of mind to correct and avoid the future of which he may know, then the future is not absolute and has not been definitely decreed for him.

The person who is a follower of the methods of fortune-telling believes in destiny and that a plan of his life has been mapped out for him.

One need only look upon his own life or the lives of friends and acquaintances to see that fate is not always a benefactor; therefore a glimpse into the future, if possible, would likewise reveal many untold suffering, pain and tragedy. Such a future should best remain undisclosed; for peace of mind is often found in ignorance of the future moment.

Man either creates his own future by his own acts of commission and omission or the future is determined for him and it is beyond his control to alter it whether he knows it or not. Man cannot ride the fence in matters of belief of this kind. The very fact that most all who seek to know what the morrow holds for them, do so that they may prepare to accept or avoid it, immediately, implies that whether they realise it or not they think that a great deal of the future lies within their own hands.

Deprecating the belief in fortune-telling from supernatural methods, the writer says:

There is so much need for the useful activity of psychic powers that it must be deplored that they are diverted into channels of attempting the impossible—fortune-telling—and likewise encouraging frauds. Scientific prediction based upon the study of actual causes and their eventual and natural results is the only kind of fortune-telling that is rational and it is far removed from any form of supernaturalism.

IS INDIA A NATION?

Is India a nation? asks Sir Ali Mahomed Khan writing in the current number of *Current Thought* and answers that she is not a nation, taking pains to show that India is divided into many castes and creeds and communities. "However much we may talk of establishing a nation in India, when it comes to practical politics, it becomes incapable of achievement," says the writer who quotes Sir Herbert Risley, once a Commissioner of Census, in support of his contention.

According to the writer:

A scientific division of the country, creating homogeneity, similarity and uniformity in each part may prove the only solution. By that method, the establishment of a Hindu Nation and a separate Muslim Nation may be possible and natural. Democracy then might find its proper place in the midst of a homogeneous people running its government on popular lines for the progress and safety of each homogeneous group. The effort to reform India into a nation in its present condition is a dream.

The writer's solution of the problem is fashioned on Mr. Jinnah's scheme of Pakistan. Criticising this view, the Editors of *Current Thought* observe:—

To plead religious differences, institutional dissimilarities, social maladjustments and economic contradiction as an escape from the sovereignty of common State and suzerainty of common citizenship within the same geographical confines is to deny the modern and sensible approach to political questions.

INDIA IN PERIODICALS.

THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY. By Admiral Sir Herbert Richmond, K.C.B. [*The Asiatic Review*, Vol. 36, No. 128.]

THE INDIAN STATES—WHAT ABOUT THEM? By Col. Sir Kailas Haksar. [*The Twentieth Century*, January 1941.]

PHILOSOPHY IN MODERN INDIA. By Kumar Pal, M.A. [*Prabuddha Bharata*, January 1941.]

EARLY RELIGION AND SOCIETY IN SOUTH INDIA. By Professor S. R. Shrinia, M.A. [*THE VEDANTA Kesari*, January 1941.]

DEVELOPMENT OF TRAVANCORE'S FISHERIES. By Dr. C. C. John. [*Travancore Information*, Vol. No. 3.]

THE CURRENCY SYSTEM OF CEYLON. By B. R. Shenoay. [*The Ceylon Economic Journal*, December 1940.]

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS



DEPARTMENTAL



NOTES

Questions of Importance

LIBERALS' REPLY TO M. P's APPEAL

The view that the British Government had so far failed to unify British and Indian interests and to inspire zeal for the British cause among the people of India, and the opinion that the situation in the country, though serious, could be improved beyond recognition if Britain acted with vision and courage, are expressed by prominent Indian Liberals in the course of a signed statement in reply to the message to the people of India from nine members of the British Parliament. The statement which is signed by Mr. V. N. Chandavarkar, President of the Liberal Federation, the Rt. Hon. Sastri, Sir C. Y. Chintamani and others, says:

At the outbreak of the war, India was more warmly sympathetic to England than even during the last Great War owing to community of political ideas. But the British Government unfortunately failed to mobilise Indian goodwill owing to their unimaginative and still distrusting attitude. In the political domain they have moved very reluctantly and always too late. The declaration made by the Viceroy after the outbreak of the war merely reaffirmed that Dominion Status was the ultimate issue of India's political evolution and there was no offer at that stage of associating Indians with the formulation and execution of war policies. Further, the measures taken in respect of the vital questions of defence and industrialisation have caused intense dissatisfaction and deepened distrust of British policy which seemed to be based on racial considerations.

We agree that the controversy with regard to Dominion Status and Independence has no practical importance at the present time. But we must emphasise that this controversy can be put an end to only by granting Dominion Status to India and thus securing to her the reality of national freedom.

On the question of the claims of minorities of which much is made in certain quarters, the signatories observe:

It has always been our aim that the Constitution shall fully protect the minority interests and

enable the minorities to make their contribution to the solution of national problems. But we must say that although it is apparently conceded that India must be allowed to have a substantial share in the framing of her Constitution, yet the task has been made virtually impossible for her by declarations on the part of Government which encourage communal intransigence and thus practically give the minorities and other interests a veto on constitutional advance.

While appreciating the M. P's appeal to revise our views of the Viceroy's offer of August 8, the signatories point out that it seems to us that they have not carefully appreciated the situation in India and have not realised the disastrous effect on the public mind of the manner in which the affairs of the country are being actually administered.

We believe in co-operation between Britain and India if it could be achieved on honourable terms. Notwithstanding the differences that have arisen, the magnitude of which cannot be minimised, there is every desire on our part to offer our full co-operation, but it is in our view incumbent on Government to make our task easy by creating the right psychological atmosphere. The British Government has not whole-heartedly said to us, as the Members of the Parliament who have addressed the Indian people have done, 'join with us in defeating Hitlerism, join with us thereafter in framing the terms of peace and helping to shape the course of the world'. How can India, which is not assured of her future freedom, forget its humiliating position and work enthusiastically for the freedom of England and other nations?

DEFENCE SCHEMES IN ACTION

Portions of a Defence Department Scheme, approved by the Chatfield Committee, for the expansion and modernization of the Ordnance factories at a cost of some Rs. 40,000,000 are now about to come into production.

This scheme, says a Press report, covers an expansion of the factories by about 20 per cent. and the provision of new plant and machinery which would enable them to manufacture most modern types of armament, including 25-pounder guns and ammunition, aircraft bombs, light machine-guns and loose barrels for the 8'7 inch anti-aircraft guns,

SIR P. C. RAY ON RURAL WELFARE

Sir P. C. Ray, in his Presidential address at the Rural Welfare Session of the first Social Service Conference, held at Calcutta on January 14, declared:

Trained volunteers and co-ordination of effort are prerequisites in any scheme of rural reconstruction aiming at maximum results in minimum time and the League would be doing a real service if it can achieve in its objects.

Sir P. C. Ray continued:

Promotion of cottage industry, propagation of Khadi, and the removal of untouchability are subjects dear to my heart. So great an importance is attached to those nation-building activities that even what has been called rightly the greatest political organisation of the country—I mean, of course, the Indian National Congress—has, even in the midst of the present political chaos obtaining in the country, laid the greatest emphasis possible on these items.

Our revered leader Mahatmaji places them at the vanguard of our national programme; and the urgent necessity of expeditious achievement of these objects is felt by all who have interests of the country at their heart. While there might be an honest difference of opinion as regards the political result of these constructive activities, there has been a more or less consensus of opinion on the supreme value of these items in any worth-the-name scheme of rural reconstruction in the country.

I would appeal to you to ponder over the urgent problem of rural welfare and attempt your very best to ameliorate the pitiable condition of your long-neglected brethren. They live, as they say, in 'pathetic contentment' and try to make their contentment real and enviable. Ameliorate their condition by providing cottage industries so that they may be economically self-sufficient and by removing untouchability they may be socially harmonious. To serve God and to neglect them is sin.

THE DOUBLE THREAT TO HINDUS

Dr. Shyam Prasad Mukherji, acting President of the Hindu Mahasabha, speaking at a public meeting in Madras, observed:

The Hindu community today is threatened with danger on two fronts. On one side we are confronted with a blind and bitter Muslim communalism, which threatens the elementary rights and liberties of Hindus over wide parts of India and which increases with every concession on our part. On the other hand, we have the foreign governments, which sets up the minorities to such intransigence in the approved tradition and seeks by this means to crush the spirit of nationalism so largely embodied in the Hindus. The Hindu Mahasabha has come into existence and continues to meet this double threat.

MR. CHURCHILL'S SURPRISE SPEECH

Mr. Churchill, Prime Minister, in a surprise speech at Glasgow, following a whirlwind tour of the city's defences, declared that he had not the slightest doubt what the end of the war would be.

"I can hold out no hopes of easy passage," he said. "Before us lie dangers—I hardly like to say as great as those through which we have passed, but at any rate dangers which, if we neglect anything, might be fatal, mortal. Before us lie many months of having to endure the bombardment of our cities and industrial areas without the power to make an equal reply. Before us lie suffering and tribulations. I am not one of those who pretend that smooth courses are open to us, or that our experiences this year are going to be deprived of terrible characteristics. But what the end will be, I cannot have the slightest doubt."

MR. GREENWOOD ON FREEDOM

"The British Government is deeply concerned to ensure that the free spirit of man shall emerge from the ruins of war," declared Mr. Arthur Greenwood, broadcasting from London. "We must help to create conditions under which nations will be able to work out their own salvation so long as they work in neighbourly relations with others and do not flout the Law of Nations. Opportunities for aggression must be restrained by the combined will and organisation of those nations which stand for orderly progress and against the tyrannical exercise of power."

THE ECONOMIC APPROACH

Giving expression to the growing conviction that all the political avenues to understanding have been explored and that most of them seem only to lead to fresh misunderstandings, the *Statesman* of Calcutta suggests a practical line of approach—the economic approach. "Let us get down to the practical urgent business of developing aircraft production, shipbuilding and motor vehicle production in India. In that task communal questions will have to be resolved, and also we shall soon find out whether the Board of Trade is willing to part with power. Parliament's good intentions are very far from being reflected in all British manufacturing or financial circles and the sooner this is honestly admitted, the better for the relationship between the two countries."

LOCAL SELF-GOVT. CONFERENCE

The view that local services need not for any reason be mixed up with various political theories, or divergent claims of different communities, was expressed by Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, Ex-Finance Minister, Government of Bengal, presiding over the Third Session of the All-India Local Self-Government Conference, which opened its three-day Session at Patna on December 27. After an address of welcome by Nawabzada Syed Muhammad Mehdi, Chairman of the Patna City Municipality and Chairman of the Reception Committee of the Conference, Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar delivered his address as President of the Conference.

Mr. Sarkar strongly criticised Government interference in the administration of local authorities which, according to him, apart from diminishing the

importance of local bodies and militating against the growth of local initiative, often resulted in duplication and unnecessary waste. He said that some misuse of power was probably inevitable in the earlier stages of a democratic self-governing institution. But that certainly should not be made a ground for curtailing its freedom, not to speak of destroying its self-governing character altogether.

The Conference was attended by delegates from Bombay, Sind, Madras, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and from the states of Kashmir, Baroda and Mysore.

HINDU YOUTHS' CONFERENCE

Full support to the direct action resolution adopted by the Hindu Mahasabha was accorded by the All-India Hindu Youths' Conference, which concluded the fifth annual session at Madura on December 29. The Conference was held in the same *pandal* as the Mahasabha, and in the absence of Dr. Syamprasad Mukerjee, President, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Sastri presided. The main resolution adopted by the Conference stated that Hindu youths welcomed the resolution of the Hindu Mahasabha on the subject of launching direct action and offered loyal co-operation to the Mahasabha.

By another resolution, the Conference affirmed the right of Hindus to regard India as the national home of Hindus.

The third official resolution requested the Universities of India to prescribe such text-books for youths which would develop the formation of Hindu nationality.

The Conference elected Dr. Syamprasad Mukerjee as President, and Dr. Santosh Kumar Mukerjee and Mr. G. Jaganathan of Madura as general secretaries.

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

The old system of education has now become absolutely out of date and incapable of meeting the requirements of modern India, observed the Hon'ble Sir Shah Sulaiman, M.A., LL.D., D.Sc., in



SIR SHAH SULAIMAN

the course of his Presidential address at the Sixteenth All-India Educational Conference held at Udaipur during X'mas. He continued:

It has, therefore, to be replaced by a national system of education more suited to the genius of the people of this country. But while a drastic change in the educational policy of India may be urgently required, it does not necessarily follow that there should be a complete change in the system all at once. Sudden and abrupt break with the past has its own peculiar disadvantages. The old system was the result of an evolution and long experience. Undoubtedly it has failed in many respects; but it has nevertheless produced men of learning and ability who have become leaders of renown in many walks of life. In launching a new scheme, we should not be over-enthusiastic but must proceed with caution and restraint.

He dealt with the various stages of education: primary, secondary, collegiate

and adult education and passed on to discuss the value of University education in the country. Touching the multiplication of universities that have of late sprung up in different centres, Sir Shah Mahomed asked: "Can that be avoided when the number of students is so large and long distances make University centres inaccessible to the poorer students?"

In conclusion, he referred to the problem of the ever-increasing unemployment in India, which calls upon us to devise a scheme of national economy, which may mitigate some of the evils resulting from the present system of distribution of wealth.

But India is fairly rich in raw materials and productivity of its soil. A wide vista of potentialities is open for the utilization of its natural resources. Our country is at the threshold of a great economic and industrial development. A new impetus for industrial enterprise has been given to it in consequence of War exigencies. We have to use all the resources at our command and develop our basic industries. We should endeavour to occupy a noble position side by side with other advanced countries of the world.

Prof. Diwan Chand Sharma, in the course of his address as President of the Universities' Section of the All-India Educational Conference at Udaipur on the 28th December, said that ideally speaking a University stood for the advancement of knowledge, but gone were those days when Universities had such lofty conceptions of their functions.

Concluding, Prof. Sharma said:

The universities in India should produce that type of Indian who thinks in terms of his country and not in terms of smaller groups, who loves freedom not only for himself but also for others, who is a custodian of the culture of India and who wants to make India a powerful group in the comity of nations.

DRS. THOMAS AND LOKANATHAN

Dr. P. J. Thomas, Professor of Economics, University of Madras, is appointed Chairman of the Hand-loom Industry Fact Finding Committee. Dr. P. S. Lokanathan, Reader in Economics, is appointed to act as Professor in the absence of Dr. Thomas.

ASSAM AND WAR FUND

It is understood that Rai Bahadur Promode Dutt, Advocate-General of Assam, has submitted to Government his opinion that the Cabinet's action in contributing rupees one lakh towards the war funds is valid.

During the winter session of the Assam Assembly, a motion for supplementary demand of Rs. 1,00,000 moved by the Premier was declared out of order by the Speaker, who thought the motion had raised a grave constitutional issue. The Speaker suggested that Government should obtain a proper legal interpretation of Section 150 of the Government of India Act which would be binding on the House and asked Government to place the demand before the House in March Session.

FEDERAL COURT JURISDICTION

The *United Press* learns that quite a larger volume of opinion from all the Provinces has been received regarding the proposals to extend the jurisdiction of the Federal Court, with a view to vest it with more powers to hear appeals from High Courts where the subject-matter of appeal is valued at Rs. 15,000 and above. The proposal for vesting this jurisdiction is contemplated under Section 206 of the Government of India Act through an Act of the Indian Legislature.

The *United Press* further learns that there is also a suggestion under consideration to vest the Federal Court with powers to hear appeals in Income-tax cases which are now done by the High Courts. This is considered to be feasible in view of the conflicting judgments by the various High Courts and the desirability

of having judicial verdicts having an All-India validity. Such a jurisdiction can, however, be vested only after an amendment of the Government of India Act which may take time.

BIHAR PROHIBITION PRISONERS

In pursuance of the recent order of the Provincial Government, directing the release of all persons undergoing sentences of imprisonment, or standing trial for Excise offences under the Prohibition Notification declared invalid by a Full Bench of the Patna High Court, 218 persons have been released in the various dry areas.

It will be recalled that after the decision of the High Court, the Bihar Excise Act was amended by the Governor and its Preamble was also amended, making it clear that the object of the Act is to enforce prohibition in the Province and not to raise revenue.

BHOWAL SANYASI CASE

Final order in the appeal arising out of the Bhowal Sanyasi Case was passed by Mr. Justice Biswas and Mr. Justice Lodge at the Calcutta High Court. Their Lordships upheld the order of the Subordinate Judge at Dacca, declaring the Plaintiff Sanyasi as the Second Kumar of Bhowal and dismissed with costs the appeal preferred by Rani Bibhabati Devi.

Their Lordships held that the judgement of Mr. Justice Costello sent out from England was a valid judgement and, therefore, the order of the Court was in accordance with the majority views of the judges and, accordingly, the appeal was dismissed with costs.

HEALTH INSURANCE

In the *Insurance Work*, Dr. Satya Pal recounts the story of the failure of his bill in the Punjab Legislative Council regarding health insurance. The provisions of his bill, he says, were simple and modest and the demands made therein just and fair. All the same, leave was not granted to introduce it.

Urging the need for such a bill, Dr. Satya Pal goes on to say:

"An average man cannot afford to have medical relief. In our Province, the number of hospitals and dispensaries is far too short of what these should be. Our average income is very low and hence many of the sons of the soil die unattended, untended and uncared for. If Health Insurance be introduced and the Government takes an active interest in this matter, much of the misery can be alleviated. As a business proposition, I am afraid it cannot be a success and unless the Government steps forward to make a handsome contribution for this purpose, it is not possible to make this a success. The employer should contribute, the Government should contribute, and a nominal subscription be levied from the employees also. This alone can solve the difficulty. There should be a panel of public-spirited medical men who should earnestly take up this work on a very moderate honorarium."

His plan would benefit the medical profession also. So far the number of medical men falls short of what the country actually needs. But while towns are being glutted with doctors, villages are deprived of medical relief. If Health Insurance be introduced, it will provide an outlet for quite a number of medical men.

NON-INDIAN COMPANIES

Of 149 Companies constituted outside India, 72 Companies belong to United Kingdom; 80 to British Dominions; 17 to Continent of Europe; 16 to U. S. A.; 9 to Japan; and 5 to Java.

Total number of non-Indian companies transacting life business is only 12; total number of non-Indian companies transacting non-life business is 128; and total number of companies transacting life and other kinds of business is 14.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

In reply to a question in the House of Commons, the Minister of Labour informed the House that persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Scheme now interned as aliens are not entitled to unemployment benefit in respect of any period of their internment; but if the wives and children of interned aliens were in need, they could receive payments under the scheme for the relief of distress.

INVESTMENT OBJECTION

When the young businessman objects, "I am going to buy some investments first . . ." an answer of this sort may be effective—

"You can buy investments at any time, Mr. Jones. They will always be on the market and, perhaps, at lower prices than to-day. But life insurance is one investment that costs you more and more if you delay. Why don't you buy it now when the market is lowest for you?"

INSURANCE FOR GOVT. SERVANTS

It is understood that the question of instituting a scheme for compulsory life insurance of all Government servants in the province of Bengal has been engaging the attention of the Government of Bengal.

DR. LAW ON MEEK-GREGORY REPORT

The view that the findings of the Meek-Gregory Mission made it imperative that vigorous attempts should be made by the Government of India to find other alternative markets in such countries as Australia, South and East Africa, Ceylon and other Empire countries was expressed by Dr. N. N. Law, presiding at the half-yearly general meeting of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce at Calcutta last month.

Dr. Law expressed his disappointment at the findings of the Mission that it was not possible for India to look to the United States of America as an effective substitute for the entirely lost European markets. He referred to the fact that the virtual closure of the entire Continental market had dealt a heavy blow to their export trade, while difficulties on account of shortage in the available freight, and rigorous control of exchange, had also served to restrict their export trade to the other countries that were still open to them.

Referring to the taxation policy of the Government, both Central and Provincial, Dr. Law questioned the imperative necessity for the imposition, one after another, of such a heavy burden of taxation on a comparatively poor country like India. As regards Central taxation measures, Dr. Law pointed out that even if it were established that additional funds were absolutely necessary to enable Government to meet increased expenditure necessitated by the war, the best method for them should have been to have resort to loans also, instead of increasing the burden of taxation.

TRADE BETWEEN AFRICA AND INDIA

An appeal to merchants and manufacturers in the country to seize the opportunity of expanding their export trade in Africa at a time when facilities were offered by the Central Government, was made by Mr. M. N. Ismail, the Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Mombasa, when he met the members of the Marwari Chamber of Commerce recently.

Mr. Ismail emphasised that the present international situation had created an extraordinary fair prospect for the growth of Indian export trade, particularly in Africa, where prior to the hostilities Japan had been exporting its piece-goods in large quantities.

BURMA BAN ON EXPORT OF MONEY

A new rule has been added to the Defence of Burma Rules prescribing that no person shall, except with the permission of the Reserve Bank of India, or a person duly authorised by the Reserve Bank, take or send out of British Burma to a place or country outside Burma and India, money in excess of such amount as may be specified by the Reserve Bank.

The Reserve Bank has accorded general permission under the rule for any person to take or send at any one time out of British Burma to any place outside Burma and India, except Ceylon, Portuguese, French India, Aden, Iraq, Arabia, Iran and Persian Gulf Ports, Bank of England notes up to £10 in value of Indian currency up to a total of Rs. 150 in value.

A limit of Rs. 1,000 has been fixed in case of Afghanistan, Ceylon, Portuguese, French India, Aden, Iraq, Arabia, Iran and Persian Gulf Ports,

ALL-INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The 15th Session of the All-India Women's Conference was opened at the Town Hall, Bangalore, on December 27, by Begum Hamid Ali, in the presence of a large gathering of delegates from different parts of India. Messages from Mahatma Gandhi and H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore were read.

Lady Mirza Ismail, Chairwoman of the Reception Committee, in her welcome address, which was read in her absence by Mrs. Rukmani Ammal, referred to the activities of the branches of the Mysore State Women's Conference.

Sir Mirza Ismail whose address was read at the Conference by Mr. N. Madhava Rao, First Member of Council, observed that women had a great part to play in removing the communal views. He observed:

Woman is peace-maker and angel of happiness. It will always be your endeavour to spread goodwill in the country and prevent political difference from developing into bitter animosities.

Mrs. Rameshwari Nehru, in the course of her Presidential address, expressed the view that Indian sympathies go to those small nations of the world who are losing their independence one after another and are being trodden under the iron heel of despotism. She added:

Conditions at home are not less gloomy. They affect us as much if not more. We are pledged not to take part in party politics, but as Indian women, we cannot remain indifferent to matters of vital importance to our country. We may or may not agree with civil disobedience, but we cannot be indifferent to the principle of the freedom of pen and speech, for which brave sons and daughters of the nation are being sent behind the prison bars. Our hearts are sore at the imprisonment of these brave men and women. We as women, struggling for our own freedom, cannot help raising our voices against suppression or oppression in all spheres.

She then urged the need for reforms in many directions and explained the significance and implications of non-violence.

In conclusion, she appealed to the women of India

to do their best to finish with the old world of tyranny and exploitation and lend their helping hand to bring in the new era of peace and goodwill.



MRS. RAMESHWARI NEHRU

The Conference at its first open sitting adopted a resolution on War, affirming its faith in non-violence and appealing to the women of the world to throw in their full weight of their moral force on the side of permanent world peace.

Another resolution urged the need for the removal of illiteracy by the introduction of free compulsory primary education for all boys and girls, and for the promotion of communal unity. The Conference adopted the report on communal unity submitted by the Group Conference which met recently for the purpose.

The Conference carried a resolution moved by Mrs. Cousins favouring Montessori system to be introduced on a wide scale.

Mrs. Urmila Mehta and Mrs. Bilimoria were declared elected as General Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, of the Conference for the coming year.

INDIAN HISTORICAL CONGRESS

A proper understanding of India's past for the purpose of devising the right constitutional expedients for the new India, which is being born, was stressed by Sir. Sikandar Hayat Khan in his inaugural address at the Indian History Congress at Lahore.



DR. S. KRISHNASWAMI AIYANGAR

Dr. S. Krishnaswami Aiyangar, in his presidential address, made a strong plea for a constructive effort to produce a history of Indian civilisation and culture.

"KERALA AND THE NAMBUDRIS"

We regret that a mistake has been made in the last issue of the *Indian Review* in putting the name of Mr. A. K. T. K. M. Narayanan Nambudripad as the author of the article on "Kerala and Nambudris". The article was contributed by Mr. A. K. Ramasesha Iyer, Advocate, Calicut, and not by Mr. Nambudripad.

ALL-INDIA URDU CONFERENCE

The Second All-India Urdu Conference was held on December 25 at Cawnpore, under the presidentship of Sir Sheikh Abdul Quadir of Lahore who, in the course of his presidential address, said that Urdu could be made the *lingua franca* of India.

CHIANG KAI SHEK'S MESSAGE

"I believe that the leaders of your country, so thoroughly well acquainted with the actual world situation, would adopt such a policy as is exactly called for by the urgency of events and fully share our sentiments and aspirations in our resistance to aggression," writes General Chiang Kai Shek, Chinese Generalissimo, to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the course of the letter brought by Dr. Tai Chi Tao. Continuing, General Chiang Kai Shek says:

I take this occasion to inform you that the Chinese resistance to the aggressive Japanese is gaining both in strength and morals. I am firmly convinced that the future of the world depends on the outcome of the united struggle of our Asiatic peoples. In view of the ever-increasing Japanese ambition and the momentous world changes, we, in order to safeguard our liberty and freedom, must first of all bring the chief perturber of peace to account.

LORD BADEN-POWELL

Lord Baden-Powell, the eighty-three-year-old Chief Scout, died at "Nyeri Kenya" on the 7th January. Until he was 80 years old, Lord Baden-Powell retained his health and vigour to a remarkable degree. When it began to fail, he built himself a bungalow on the slopes of Mount Kenya, where with Lady Baden-Powell he made his home. He paid his last visit to England in May 1938.

A soldier, who became famous in the South African War in which he was responsible for the defence of Mafeking, General Baden-Powell became a world figure by founding the Boy Scout movement in 1908.

THE LATE DR. BERGSON

Dr. Henri Bergson, the French philosopher, expounder of the theory of "creative evolution", has died at the age of 82.

Bergson was, in 1901, elected member of the Academie des Sciences Morales et Philosophiques and in 1914 of the French Academy. He was also a member of the Council of the Legion of Honour. In November 1928, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for the year 1927.

ALL-INDIA MEDICAL CONFERENCE

The establishment of Colleges of Pharmaceutical Chemistry in the provinces by Provincial Governments and philanthropists was urged by the All-India Medical Conference, held at Vizagapatam from December 27 to 29 under the auspices of the Indian Medical Association.

Dr. P. Gummanti, Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcoming the delegates referred to the need for the extension of medical relief in rural areas.

Dr. K. S. Ray, of Calcutta, presided and a large number of delegates elected by the various branches of the Indian Medical Association from different parts of India attended. The Maharaja of Jeypore, Pro-Chancellor of the Andhra University, opened the Conference and the medical exhibition was opened by Dr. B. C. Roy.

The Conference suggested that if such colleges could not be established in the provinces, departments of pharmaceutical chemistry should be attached to the existing college of art or science for giving higher training to the undergraduates and graduates in this subject.

The Conference urged the Indian Medical Council to reconsider their previous decisions and to recommend to the Government of India to recognise Patna and Andhra Universities retrospectively from 1926 and 1928 respectively.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE

The following among other resolutions were adopted at the All-India Pharmaceutical Conference, held at Benares in Christmas week, under the presidentship of Mr. S. N. Bal of the Indian Museum:—

That the attention of the Government of India be drawn to false and misleading advertisements about the efficacy of medicaments appearing in the papers, and the Government be requested to take steps to stop such practices by legislation in the interest of public health.

That the profession of pharmacy be recognized by the Government of India and also by the Provincial Governments as a separate entity.

That the profession of pharmacy in all its aspects be confined to properly qualified and registered pharmacists.

That a sub-committee be formed to draft out a Pharmacy Act for India for consideration of the Council of the Indian Pharmaceutical Association.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES

Sir R. N. Chopra, Director of the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, presiding over the annual meeting of the National Institute of Sciences, held at Benares on January 2, made an appeal for more funds and patronage for scientific and industrial research.

He put in a plea for a Federal Ministry of Public Health in India and dwelt on the organisation of public health and medical services in India and stressed the need for co-operation between the medical and public health departments. He considered that under the conditions prevailing in India at present, the State was essentially responsible for providing the necessary agencies for both preventive and curative medicine. He also considered that to meet the requirements of public health of the population, there should be a combined establishment which should form the basis of preventive, curative and constructive medicine in each village, which should be linked up with a more organised central agency. The activities of the health organisation in different provinces should be co-ordinated by a more elaborate and efficient federal or All-India organisation.

L. I. M. CONFERENCE

Dr. M. Guruswami Mudaliar, in declaring open the tenth L. I. M. Conference and Exhibition at Madras, on December 28, observed:

What we have got now of the science of Ayurveda is only a compilation of fragments picked up here and there by clear-headed and patient workers in the field. It is only part of the knowledge that was at one time prevalent. It is our duty, therefore, to see that we once more take up the task of improving knowledge from whatever source it might be.

Dr. M. A. Shakoor Sahib, member of the Governing Body of the Indian Medical School and Hospital and the Central Board of Indian Medicine, presided. Sir Mahomed Usman, President of the L. I. M. Association, in his welcome address referred to the Committee appointed by the Government, whose object was to give the students of the School of Indian Medicine a revised curriculum for the better study of the Indian systems,

INDIAN DEFENCE LOANS

Subscriptions to the 8 per cent. defence bonds for the week ending January 4, 1941, amount to Rs. 91,88,500, states a press *communiqué*.

The total amount subscribed to the interest-free defence bonds up to January 8, 1941, was Rs. 2,26,80,000, to the 8 per cent. defence bonds Rs. 85,28,22,000 (Rs. 21,78,56,000 in cash and Rs. 18,44,66,000 in conversions), and to the post office ten-year defence savings certificates Rs. 1,76,81,000.

The grand total of subscriptions to all Indian Defence Loans upto January 4, 1941, is Rs. 89,26,83,000.

LOANS TO BUILDING SOCIETIES

The Government have been advancing long-term loans to Co-operative Building Societies organised for the benefit of the poorer and middle classes in urban areas from 1928 onwards. As an emergency measure for the curtailment of expenditure during the war, the grant of loans to building societies was stopped after 31st October, 1939. The Government have now re-examined the question of the grant of State loans to co-operative building societies and decided to grant fresh loans from 1st April 1941 on a restricted scale.

GUILDER LINKED TO YEN

An exchange agreement linking the guilder with the yen has been signed by the Yokohama Specie Bank and the Java Bank.

There will be no change at present in the existing yen-guilder exchange rate, says the Domei Agency, but the agreement provides for consultation between the two parties if a change in the rate is considered necessary.

ONLY BANK IN THE WORLD FOR WOMEN

Amsterdam is the only city in the world which boasts a bank for women only. The founder of this institution, on completion of her studies at the University, decided that women would appreciate a bank run by their own sex, where they could get good advice on the handling of their financial problems.

BIHTA RAILWAY DISASTER

The evidence now available still leaves some points obscure, but it points strongly to the conclusion that the accident resulted from a combination of three factors: engine, track, and speed, observe the Government of India in their conclusion on the Bihta railway disaster, which took place on July 17, 1937.

The Government's observations are embodied in a letter to the General Manager of the East Indian Railway now released for publication. The letter was considered at a meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways in December last.

EARNINGS OF STATE-OWNED RAILWAYS

The total approximate gross earnings of all State-owned Railways for the period (10 days) ending 29th December, 1940, (26th period) amount to Rs. 828 lakhs.

This is (a) Rs. 24 lakhs more than the approximate gross earnings for the corresponding period of the previous year, or, (b) Rs. 17 lakhs more than the actuals for the corresponding period of 1939-40.

The total approximate gross earnings from 1st April to 20th December, 1940, amount to Rs. 76'10 crores. This is Rs. 821 lakhs more than the actuals for the previous year.

A TOY TRAIN

A toy train carrying H. H. the Gaekwar's children from the palace to the school is a new addition to the palace luxuries.

In all costing Rs. 60,000, the train consisting of two bogie carriages, 8 feet by 12 feet long each, is propelled by a miniature steam engine barely 4 feet high.

It was specially made to order to carry the two baby princes and four young princesses with companions from Laxmi Vilas Palace to Motibag Princes' School within the palace compound itself.

CLOSURE OF BRANCH LINES

It is notified that the Government of India (Railway Board) have now decided to defer the closing of the Vasad-Kanthana and Boriavi-Vadatal branch lines of the B. B. and C. I. Railway until further orders.

THYAGARAJA'S LYRICS

Thyagaraja brought Carnatic music from its Kirtana or recitative stage to Kirti or lyrical stage, observed a critic of South Indian Music, on the occasion of the Thyagaraja celebrations in Madras.

Purandara Das, Rama Das, Arunachala Kavi, Papanasa Mudaliar, Svati Tirunal, Vedanyakam Pillai and Gopalakrishna Bharati had all been revelling in Kirtanas.

As time went on, the recitative music fell into two divisions: Krittās and Kirtanas. A remingling of these two divisions marked a distinct epoch in the history of the Carnatic music; and Arunachala Kavi's 'Ramanatakam' consisting as it did Krittās and Kirtanas fully represented that epoch. It was published in 1772 when Thyagaraja was a boy of 18 years.

Side by side with this development, the composition of Varnas, Ragamalikas, Svaragits and so forth was in its fullest swing, and those new types marked the first struggle between the two styles of music. The development of Sangathis was the special feature of Krittās; the control of Tala, of Kirtanas and Svara-Vingas of Varnas.

Thyagaraja happily blended all these three features in his Kritis and presented to the music-world an entirely new and fascinating species of composition.

SCHEME FOR COMPULSORY MUSIC

A scheme costing Rs. 15,000 annually for the introduction of compulsory music in all primary and secondary schools in the Province, the establishment of a small Radio Station until such time as Sind is placed on the plan of the All-India Radio for a regular station and the provision of radio sets in selected villages for popularising music, is embodied in the report of the Special Committee appointed by the Sind Government last year. The scheme suggests the appointment of provincial and district boards to run academies to train 2,889 teachers for the scheme.

DIRECTOR OF INDIAN MUSIC

It is understood that the All-India Radio are likely to appoint a Dutchman as Director of Indian Music.

INDIAN HOCKEY IN MALAYA

Indian Army Units stationed in Malaya continue to find time for sport in spite of the demands of rigorous military training programmes. Both in team games and individual performances, Indian Army sportsmen have gained successes.

Although only some of the Indian units such as those in camp at the naval base have sufficient space for sports fields close to barracks, officers and men have shown considerable ingenuity in improvising grounds out of disused waste land and in finding games to suit available space.

The Indian Army in Malaya has certainly set a new standard in Malayan hockey—a game which has hitherto been allocated only a comparatively short season in Malaya's sports calendar. Hockey has, perhaps, been a little neglected there in the past, but that is not likely now that the Indian troops are in the country eager for games with local teams.

TENNIS RANKING

Ghaus Mahomed again leads the ranking list issued by the Ranking Committee of the All-India Lawn Tennis Association for the season 1939-40.

The Committee have ranked a few players separately (Class A). These are judged to have had performances of approximately equal merit as those officially ranked.

Following is the official ranking list:—

Men.—Ghaus Mahomed 1; Iftikhar Ahmed 2; Yudishtar Singh 3; S. L. R. Sawhney 4.

Class "A".—E. V. Bobb, Prem Pandhi, D. N. Kapoor, Sohan Lal and Kashu Sen.

Women.—Miss Leila Row 1; Miss L. Woodbridge 2.

Class "A".—Mrs. C. Cargin, Miss Hadi, Miss Dubash, Mrs C. V. N. Sastri, and Mrs. C. Massey.

The Ranking Committee consisted of Messrs. M. Sleem, Kunwar Jasbir Singh, J. Charanjiva, E. V. Bobb and L. Brooke Edwards.

SAVUR: MADRAS' LEADING PLAYER

Y. R. Savur has been placed first in the ranking list issued by the Madras Provincial Lawn Tennis Association.

Women players could not be ranked owing to insufficient data.

INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, was started in 1934, with a view to holding regular meetings for reading and discussion of original scientific contributions and for arranging symposia on subjects of special interest. In addition, the Academy provides in its Proceedings a valuable agency for the publication of papers without delay; these are issued every month in two parts: 1. Physical and Mathematical Series, and 2. Biological Series.

Inaugurating the Sixth Session of the Indian Academy of Sciences in the Andhra University premises, Waltair, on December 27, the Maharaja of Jeypore, Pro-Chancellor of the Andhra University, said:

We are now passing through very troublous times and the whole world looks to you scientific men, not only for guidance and advice but also for securing the necessary scientific appliances which form the basis of a sound national defence.

Apart from this great responsibility, which the scientists have to shoulder and have been shouldering in war time, their normal activities consist of a search for truth and a study of nature. I know that modern science has been very successful in this direction and many amenities of our daily life to-day, which go a long way to make it comfortable and enjoyable, have been the by-products of such a devoted study.

There was a large gathering including some medicos and scientists.

Sir C. V. Raman, in his presidential address, thanked the authorities of the Andhra University for their steady support to the Academy, and referred to the 10-year programme of research on the physics of crystals. He then spoke for nearly an hour on the "new crystal optics". The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides.

SYNTHETIC RUBBER

In Germany and Russia, the aim of research for artificially producing rubber has been to duplicate, or nearly duplicate, the properties of natural rubber; in the United States, on the other hand, the apparent objective has been to produce a product superior to natural rubber in some respect so as to justify in a free market the higher cost, which is in most cases at least three or four times that of natural rubber.

THE GREAT DICTATOR

"To me the funniest thing in the world can be the ridicule of phonies and stuffed shirts in high places. The bigger the phony you have to work on, the better chance you have to work on, the better chance you have for a funny picture and it would be difficult to find another phony as big as Hitler. He is the best target in the world for satire and ridicule, that's why I enjoyed making *The Great Dictator*," writes Charles Chaplin in the American magazine, *Look*. He continues:

Some people have suggested that I made the picture for propaganda purposes. This is far from the truth. I am not interested in propaganda as such; most propaganda is didactic and dull. I made *The Great Dictator* because I hate dictators and because I want people to laugh.

If I had any motive in making the movie other than the desire to provide entertainment, I would not call it propaganda.

I am not in politics; I am not particularly impressed with the systems of politics, but I do think I am a humanitarian, as every one who follows the artistic professions believes himself to be.

I don't like the idea of an individual or, a system kicking around a lot of small helpless people.

CURRENT HISTORY IN FILMS

Bringing current history to the screen is the newest trend in Hollywood. Problems, which were taboo not so many months ago, are now being brought out into the open. A case in point is that of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "*The Mortal Story*", a dramatic story of Nazi Germany based on the novel Phyllis Bottome. The picture is a forthcoming attraction at the Metro-Cinema. The cast is headed by Margaret Sullivan, James Stewart, Robert Young, and Frank Morgan. Frank Borzage is the director. The film pictures Germany directly after Hitler was appointed Chancellor in the turbulent winter of 1933. The story itself deals with a family and its complete disintegration under the laws put forth in the new regime.

PETROL RATIONING CONFERENCE

The Petrol Rationing Conference which met in Delhi, was attended by representatives of the Central Government, the Provincial Governments, the Indian States, the various Automobile Associations and the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association. The problems connected with the introduction of a rationing scheme in India were thoroughly examined and conclusions were reached, which will enable the Government of India to undertake the preparation of a formal scheme. The scheme, we are told, is to be worked out in detail and kept in readiness for introduction should an actual emergency arise.

COMBINE BIG MOTOR CAR

A partnership between big American motor car corporations and aviation industry producing planes for national defence has been formed. The aviation chief of the National Defence Commission, Dr. George Mead, told newspapermen that in this connexion, Ford, General Motors and the Chrysler Company would construct aeroplane parts in their assembly rooms for twelve hundred planes each. Ford is also going to manufacture parts for bombers being constructed by the Douglas and Consolidated Aircraft Companies, while Chrysler would build parts for Martin bombers, and General Motors for North-American aviation machines. "I believe I have found a solution for production of military planes in these three great automobile corporations," stated Dr. Mead.

TEA CARS FOR INDIAN TROOPS

A fleet of tea cars, which are used for the distribution of free tea amongst Indian troops, have been constructed by the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board. These mobile tea canteens operate independently but in full co-operation with the activities of the Committee of the Amenities for Troops Fund. The Indian Tea Market Expansion Board's present plan of work for the benefit of Indian troops is to distribute tea to isolated bodies of troops, or recruit training camps not possessing adequate canteen arrangements as in the established cantonments.

MANUFACTURE OF AIRCRAFT IN INDIA

It is understood that the Government of India will place an order for 50 aeroplanes with a new Company for aircraft manufacture to be established in Mysore State.

It appears that the Mysore State will subscribe half the capital and nominate their directory, while the other half of the capital will be found by Mr. Walchand Hirachand and his two partners.

The Company will be floated in Mysore shortly. The initial capital required will not exceed 60 or 70 lakhs, because about two and a half crores would be paid in advance by the Government as the price of their first order. Representatives of an American firm have signed a contract with the Government. Ship-building yard would require another three-fourths of a crore and had been found. Trouble lies with automobile manufacture and it will cost about two and a half crores. The scheme prepared by Mr. Walchand Hirachand for the manufacture of automobiles has not been accepted by Government.

Regarding aeroplanes in the first year, parts imported would be assembled and the manufacture of parts and engines would follow.

'PLANES AND COAL GAS

The Italian Air Force is experimenting with coal gas as a driving power for aeroplanes. The Stefani Agency says that the experiments are being carried out at an aerodrome near Milan.

The Breda Plane, fitted with an 85 horse-power motor, was adopted for the use of coal gas, and the Agency states that it took off easily and rose to a height of 150 feet.

AIR LINE BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA

A direct airline between India and China is planned for the near future. A subsidiary of the Pan-American Airway, the Sino-American National Aviation Corporation, is expected to operate the new service. A Douglas air-liner owned by the Corporation will shortly make a survey flight. The airline will be inaugurated as soon as maintenance arrangements have been completed.

SOAP-MAKERS' CONFERENCE

The Eighth Annual Conference of the Indian soap makers, held in the hall of the Benares Hindu University on January 8, under the presidency of Dr. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Director of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, passed resolutions urging on the Department of Supply to send all inquiries for soap and allied products to the Indian Soap Makers' Association for circulation to the constituent members, urging the Government to protect the Indian caustic soda industry against unfair competition and urging on the Agricultural Marketing Department of the Government of India to take up the matter of rendering tallow and to grade it properly for industrial purposes and requesting the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to co-operate with the All-India Soap Makers' Association in collecting statistics of the existing essential oil-bearing plants and growing them on suitable soils.

INDIA AND WAR INDUSTRIES

"There will be a wide scope for India to establish and develop heavy industries for manufacturing aircraft and armaments and building ships. If this opportunity is not availed of, I fear there will be formidable opposition from other countries which are ahead of us and it may be too late for India to keep pace with them," observed Dewan Bahadur U. S. Rathnasabapathi Mudaliar, President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, in a recent interview in Madras.

Mr. Mudaliar said that the reports of the two main Committees and Sub-Committees of the Eastern Group Conference had been submitted. "Without disclosing any secret I may say that the reports indicate the quantities of cotton textiles, wool, leather, timber, etc., that are being manufactured by various countries of the Eastern Group at present."

MANUFACTURE OF WAR MATERIALS

The Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, who attended the Eastern Group Conference at Delhi recently, has called a conference of representatives of all the engineering interests in Ceylon, both private and Government, to consider proposals for the manufacture of war materials in Ceylon, says the *Ceylon Daily News*.

RELIEF TO GROUNDNUT GROWERS

An arrangement between the Government of India and the Ministry of Food in England, to relieve the distress of Indian groundnut cultivators by creating a Fund for their benefit from the proceeds of a rebate of 25s. per ton from South Indian shipments, and of 15s. per ton from Bombay shipments, was referred to by the President, Southern India Chamber of Commerce, in his presidential address to a conference of groundnut interests in Madras.

The President said that the Food Ministry was now the sole buyer of groundnut in the market. The fixing of a maximum limit of £10 per ton in September last enabled the groundnut price to be maintained at a reasonable level for some time, but the Ministry did not continue the purchases. As a result the price, which before the fall of France stood at about Rs. 86 per candy, had now dropped to Rs. 20 at the ports. After meeting the railway freight, handling charges and other expenses, the President said that the cultivators got very little out of this Rs. 20.

He was glad that the plight of the groundnut trade had received the prompt attention of the Government, and discussions were now proceeding with His Majesty's Government.

TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN U. P.

The U. P. Government have sanctioned the scheme for the cultivation of tobacco on the Government farm at Bharari in Bundelkhand. The scheme has been under consideration since the British Government's decision to stop buying tobacco from America. It is stated that the four years' experience in growing Virginia tobacco by the Government Farm at Bharari has shown that the scheme will prove a success in Bundelkhand which is comparatively free from severe frost and thereby offers favourable conditions.

It is proposed that co-operative societies should organize tobacco cultivation on about 800 acres of land and that about 100 acres should be grown on the Agricultural Department farm at Bharari. The whole of the crop will be cured by the Department and sold to the Indian Leaf Tobacco Company Ltd., which is to assist the scheme with advice.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The Hon. Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Commerce and Labour Member, Government of India, met the representatives of the Employers' Federation of India and the All-India Organization of Industrial Employers at a conference at Calcutta in the first week of January and discussed with them for nearly two hours certain labour legislations proposed to be introduced in the Central Assembly. These include the proposed amendment of the Trade Disputes Act, holidays with pay, the extension of legislation to labour employed in commercial establishments and the extension of maternity benefits to women employed in coal mines.

The Conference also discussed the question of bringing A. R. P. experts from England, in order to impart A. R. P. training to the working class in the country.

SCHEME FOR TRAINING TECHNICIANS

It is understood that sanction has already been accorded to start training in the following institutions under the scheme initiated by the Labour Department of the Government of India :—

The Engineering Colleges at Guindy, Poona, Sibpur, Benares, Lahore, Aligarh, Bangalore, Patna, Jodhpur, Ballygunj, the Engineering Schools at Dacca, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Lahore, Jamshedpur, Surat, Hyderabad, Cuttack, Burdwan, Balasore, Dayalbagh, Agra, Akola, the Victoria Technical Institute at Bombay and certain railway workshops at Lillooah, Kancharapara and Kharagpur.

When the scheme for training 15,000 apprentices gets into full swing, there will be many more than 80 institutions.

WAR ALLOWANCE TO WORKERS

All the workers of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Jamshedpur, drawing below Rs. 125 per month will be granted a war time dearness allowance from August 1, 1940, according to the terms of a settlement between the Company and Tata Workers' Union.

The settlement was the result of the work of a Board of Conciliation appointed by the Government, of which Sir Khaja Mohammed Noor was the President.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

The Posts and Telegraphs Department earned a surplus of over Rs. 89,59,000 during the year 1939-40. This is the largest surplus since the accounts of this Department were placed on a commercial basis in 1925-26, and has been almost entirely due to the unprecedented increase, in postal, telegraph and telephone traffic due to the war, states Sir Gurunath Bewoor, Director-General, in his annual report for 1939-40.

The Department's revenue shows an increase of Rs. 80,92,000, the total being Rs. 12,48,52,000 as compared with Rs. 11,67,60,000 in the previous year. This increase is made up of increases in revenue of about Rs. 19,00,000 under "Post Office", about Rs. 40,00,000 under "Telegraphs", about Rs. 21,00,000 under "Telephones", and about Rs. 1,00,000 under "Radio", i.e., Wireless Telegraphs.

THE THEOSOPHICAL CONVENTION

The 65th Annual International Convention of the Theosophical Society was opened in the Theosophical Society, Benares, on December 26, by the President, Dr. G. S. Arundale, who delivered a speech giving an account of Theosophical activities in different parts of the world. Prominent Theosophists including Mr. C. Jinarajadasa and Dr. Bhagwan Das, a large number of delegates from various parts of India and also a number of non-Indian Theosophists attended. The Indian section of the Society is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee.

TRAINING OF INDIAN ARMY OFFICERS

The first batch of 88 cadets will emerge from the Mhow Officers' Training School on February 15, on completion of their training. Qualified candidates will be given commission and sent to the different regiments.

The *United Press* learns that a further batch of cadets has been sent to the school for training from January 6.

It is understood that the enrolment to the regular Indian Army has exceeded the figure of 100,000 referred to in the Commander-in-Chief's broadcast speech on May 31.

The New Order is thus the exact antithesis of the old. It is out to destroy the smaller nations of the earth. The weak have no right to live. Strength and not sovereignty is the sole attribute to statehood. The rule of the sword is substituted for the rule of law. Brute force determines the course of international life. All those noble impulses of justice and righteousness which have weaved man from the instincts of the beast and enabled him to strive through ages to live in the image of his Maker are derided and assailed.

The challenge of the New Order can neither be denied nor evaded by any state in the East or West. Nor indeed by India. Ever since the birth of Indian nationalism, the forces of freedom have been steadily gathering in the direction of independence as the country's goal. But the movement for liberty has largely been shaped by Western political thought to which a just international order was the fundamental postulate of national existence. The inarticulate hypothesis in the national struggle was that freedom once won was generally secure.

Nor did the actualities of a hundred and fifty years of British rule permit the intrusion of any other idea in the organic life of the country. For generations India's frontiers have been secure: her territorial integrity absolute. Peace within and without has fostered the growth of the movement for *Swaraj*. The world was passed over leaving India's shores untouched. And the year that witnessed the grant of beginnings of self-government in India also saw the creation of the League of Nations. No clouds on the international horizon have ever since

disturbed the illusion of India's inviolability, nor cast any shadows within the orbit of India's movement for complete independence.

In sharp contrast has been the organic development of the Dominion countries of the British Empire. The great war revealed that the danger to Britain was danger to the Dominions. Not mere sentiment but self-interest and security drew the Dominions and the Mother-country into a common bond. In the toil and blood of the last war was born the British Commonwealth of Nations. It was, indeed, a miniature League of Nations equal in status and in no way subordinate one to another, wherein the sovereignty of each was assured in a mighty alliance under a common crown. The contours of Dominion status became clear as years passed. They were formulated in resolutions at the Imperial Conference of 1926, and translated into an Imperial Statute in 1931. Today the Dominions present a common front to the enemy, though their shores are distant from the theatre of war. Not independence but interdependence within the Empire has become the key-note of Dominion freedom and vitality.

To India the menace of the New Order is not less real than to the Dominions. No statesman can ignore or be indifferent to the perils of the present war. The frontiers of India have shifted to the Suez on the west and the French Indo-China on the east. On the result of the war hangs also India's destiny. The New Order has created a new philosophy in which the perspective of India's political aspiration must shift. Not abstract doctrine but concrete reality must now shape the alignments of Indian *Swaraj*. If the New Order is not resisted and should succeed, what shall India expect?

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

BY DR. DAVID MALAIPERUMAN, M.A., (Madras), Ph.D. (Chicago)

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THE last presidential election was one of the most sensational events in the history of the United States, more fateful than Lincoln's election in the midst of the Civil War, more significant than the re-election of Woodrow Wilson during the last World War. The people of the United States have waived aside a time-honoured and most strongly cherished custom, the only one observed without a single break since the time of George Washington, in electing Franklin Delano Roosevelt as President for the third term with an overwhelming majority. They elected as their leader a man who integrates in his personality the courage and force of George Washington, the democratic zeal of Thomas Jefferson, the social justice of Abraham Lincoln, the adventurous quest of Theodore Roosevelt and the intellectual integrity of Woodrow Wilson. At a time of crisis when civilization and democracy are seriously threatened, the people of the U. S. were not willing to take a chance in changing the administration. The election resolved primarily into a choice between candidates, not party platforms, and Roosevelt inspired confidence in his capacity to steer the country through a period of war crisis. Further, the people naturally voted for a man with long experience in national and foreign affairs in preference to a candidate lacking this experience, however convincing his election pledges might have been. It was no doubt a personal triumph for Roosevelt. Even those who were tepid in their admiration for the New Deal administration and its policy voted for him. As a Washington Correspondent once

put it, he is "the man who on some great emergency shall be deemed universally most capable of serving the public". Millions of his countrymen so regard him. There are others again who consider him as the man "least incapable of serving the public" and voted for him in default. However, the concensus of American public opinion endorsed Dorothy Thompson, the famous columnist and writer, who declared for Roosevelt. Her reasons for coming out for him: his experience, his prestige in the democratic world, her faith in his ability to be a very great man in an emergency, her belief that he has the confidence of the rank and file.

The Roosevelt administration has been given a mandate from the people to carry on the good work of social legislation, recovery and reform. For nearly eight years, Roosevelt has battled for liberal principles and he calls himself a "fighting liberal". The New Deal has grappled with a domestic problem whose magnitude and acuteness are without parallel in American history. Though many people criticised the methods adopted by the Administration, they accepted the underlying purpose of the New Deal—the building of a Social Service State. The defeat of Roosevelt would have meant not merely the defeat of his methods of social legislation but also that of his objectives. Therefore, even those who differed in the methods of domestic policy voted for Roosevelt. The beneficent purposes of the New Deal outweigh its imperfections. Further, neither Wendell Willkie nor his party was able to point

out that the New Deal was fundamentally unsound. The Republican Party offered nothing constructive as a substitute for the New Deal. No one had even sketched the outline of a programme on which a conservative administration must be a success. Their chief contention was that all their troubles are the fault of that so and so in the White House. There was no clear-cut meaningful alternative to the Roosevelt programme nor concrete substitute presented by the Republican candidate, but his election campaign resolved into a mere vote catching contest with poor bait. There is no use getting emotionally and rhetorically excited about the New Deal's failure to solve the problem of domestic prosperity without appealing for the support of an intelligent electorate with an offer of a definite plan for a "Better Deal". Further, a candidate who accepts the New Deal Reforms cannot make the New Deal an issue without offering a solution of the disorder in national economy that he claims to present. In opposing the philosophy of the New Deal, he asserted that industry, when given its head, can promote recovery and provide jobs to every-one. Wendell Willkie came out as a representative of Big Business, an apologist for capitalism that was restrained by New Deal legislation. He has been a utilities magnate, a Wall Street Lawyer, a man whose name has been connected with corporation attacks upon the Government. What chance has a man with Wall Street and Big Business support when it comes to a question of enlisting the sympathy or the votes of farmers, labourers and the masses?

The unprecedented success of Roosevelt meant national confidence in his foreign policy. The foreign policy plank of the

Republican Party was little more than a carbon copy of the New Deal policy. But the votes were cast in favour of Roosevelt, because with his long experience and insight into international affairs, he is expected to better safeguard the interests of the nation in this critical period. Roosevelt carried the country with him in his fight against isolationism, which took a definite turn since the repeal of the arms embargo. Had Willkie been elected, his isolationist followers would have restrained whole-hearted help to the Allies in the present war. So Roosevelt's election is a blessing to the Allies, for he has pledged speedy and increased assistance by way of military planes, destroyers and other material resources of the nation. President Roosevelt has been given a mandate to check Hitlerism and totalitarianism and save democracy in the Western Hemisphere and abroad. No wonder that the Axis Powers wanted to see Roosevelt defeated. His re-election has confounded the Axis partners and propagandists, who had led many Americans to fear that Roosevelt would drag the country into war. These proponents of the New Order in Europe and in the Far East have already been given serious warning and are greatly discomfited at his return to the White House. Britain's hands have been strengthened, not only in the West but also in the Far East.

The threatened menace or Nazi-Fascist aggression in the Western Hemisphere and Far East, Italian entry into the war and invasion of Greece certainly prompted thousands of hesitating voters to throw their weight on the side of Roosevelt in his fight against totalitarianism. Roosevelt has brought home to the minds of his

people that instead of being paralysed by fear, they should act promptly and positively upon the inescapable fact that Hitler and his allies are at war with American civilization, the American hemisphere, just as surely as they are at war with Britain. As a result of the election, U. S. A. policy toward the war has become more definite.

Roosevelt is pledged to keep America out of war; but in increasing help to Britain, America is virtually at war with Hitler. In this connection, it may be well to remember the words of President Woodrow Wilson (before his election for a second term) on January 26, 1916: "You may count upon my heart and resolution to keep you out of war." But what happened nearly six months later? Whether history will repeat itself depends on the turn of world events. But whatever happens now, as before, the policy of the U. S. will have much to do with the course of the War. There are proposals to further amend the Neutrality Act so that American vessels may take supplies to Britain. There is some plan to evade the Johnson Act and the "cash and carry clause" either by amendment of the law or by granting loan to Britain indirectly through the Netherlands Government, for instance. The actualization of these possibilities may be the first step to open conflict. Roosevelt has already become the arch-enemy of the Dictators, and Hitler fears him more than Churchill.

While directing his chief attention to foreign policy, there are those who fear that domestic affairs may be neglected or sacrificed for the sake of defence. John L. Lewis, the Labour leader of the C. I. O.

accused the President of trying to create prosperity by manufacturing armaments. Since Roosevelt's re-election, he has resigned from the Presidency of the Congress of Industrial Organisation as a protest. Roosevelt has pledged: "We need not swap the gain of better living for the gain of better defence. I propose to retain the one and gain the other." But it must be noted that the drive for military preparedness has already given birth to a parallel drive for the repeal of social legislation. It remains to be seen whether he can make good his word to protect the nation against the appearance of munitions millionaires and the destruction of safeguards to labour, the unemployed and the aged.

Having broken the unprecedented third-term limit, there are those who fear that Roosevelt is getting dictatorial powers. But, as Harold Laski points out, great power makes great leadership possible and both internally and externally the President requires power to act in the interests of the American people as a whole, overriding the sectional interests that dominate the Congress. With the outbreak of the war in Europe, all ranks closed in and in one sense it is a nation unified by a military psychology under the leadership of the President who is also commander-in-chief of the army and navy. The history of dictatorships in the modern world shows that they have not crept up inside governments of democracies through the gradual increase of the powers of the executive. The heritage of Franklin Roosevelt, and conditions in the United States, avert any possible danger of dictatorship.

OUR ANCIENT INSTITUTIONS

BY PROF. DR. RAGHU VIRA, M.A., Ph.D., D.Litt., et Phil. (London)

(Director, *The International Academy of Indian Culture, Lahore*)

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TO develop an India of the future it is essential to pay attention to the many varied institutions which have been developed in India during the course of her very long history. Some of the institutions which have lost their vitality and life values have to be re-organised. Some others have to be given even a new direction so as to make them more useful for our own age. Pilgrimage is one of the many such institutions.

In ancient times pilgrimage was the expression of several mental and spiritual attitudes. On the one hand there was a sacrifice of one's business and time, on the other there was the courting of risks of all sorts. The end was the acquisition of holiness and purity gathered together in un-bounded measure from the turmoil and dangers of the journey through wild jungles and barren deserts, gathered from the company of saints and masters encountered on the way and finally gathered at the holy banks of Tirthas through contacts, human, sub-human and super-human. An Indian place of pilgrimage was always a tirtha, which signifies "a crossing over", physically through and over water, spiritually through and over darkness. Besides water, the Guru, the spiritual preacher was equally recognised as the tirtha. Our places of pilgrimage provided both the water as well as the gurus. Water also stands for purity. In purifying the body it helps in the purification of the soul.

Improvement in travel has minimised to the extreme the charm and the

sanctity, the risk and the purity of pilgrimage. Now it is not the adventurous soul or the yearning soul which undertakes pilgrimage. Anybody who can afford a few rupees can easily reach any place of pilgrimage within a very short time. When he has reached his destination, he finds more of rogues and scoundrels than of holy men. The water is dirty. The food is dirty. There are epidemics of ugly type.

In ancient times pilgrimages served the following purposes in the vastness of our life:—

1. People could get away from the narrowness of their personal surroundings for the pretty long time, at least a few months.

2. It was an occasion for bringing out the best in man when left to his own in the midst of free nature, which at times proved to be extremely hospitable and at others extremely threatening with its lions and tigers and obnoxious mosquitoes and leaches. No road, no hotels.

3. All this was suffered to one end, that of elevating one's self higher and higher.

4. Whatever was beautiful and grand was drunk deep, because it was met with after such a long quest and hard effort. Whatever was beautiful in humanity or in other words whatever was divine, one was really prepared on account of his eagerness to accept and to own. Who can doubt that a large number of these ancient pilgrims found solace and wisdom,

while we might safely say that today it is hard to find any one who was really benefited either by the journey or by the sights and contacts at the actual places of pilgrimage.

There is another side which concerns us today more than ever; that is the intellectual widening of our horizon into the great expanse of our civilisation. It has been questioned a hundred and one times whether India is a unity. The diversity of languages, the diversity of customs and manners, is so baffling that this unity is seriously questionable. This thing was realised by our ancients thousands of years ago and was bridged over in various ways. The roaming teachers and ascetics were the uniting bond of India. This was supplemented by the stream of pilgrims carrying with them better understanding and deeper humanity than can ever be realised in any other way. From Rameshwaram up to Kailash, India was one.

But there has been a greater India, the memory of which has never been anything but faint. The ancients showed us the twofold way of maintaining the unity of culture, the wandering teachers and the yearning pilgrims, one anxious to teach, the other anxious to grasp and learn. The system must be resuscitated with new vigour. It is only vigour which brings success. So with vigour the system has to be revived, our teachers and pilgrims have once again to assume their sacred role of uniting with India its forgotten and dismembered parts. There may be 10 different governments ruling over its different parts; that should not matter. But that has mattered so far. The British claim that they

have united the whole of India for the first time and brought the sense of unity of India in the minds of Indians. That is partially true, because otherwise why should we have forgotten the unity of India with greater India. Difference of Government has been responsible for our forgetfulness. This will be illustrated properly by mentioning the names of the different countries which form greater India: Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Mongolia, China, Tibet, Burmah, Siam, Indo-China, Malaya, Java, Sumatra, Bali, Lombok, Borneo, and Ceylon. Even Burmah, Ceylon and Malaya are politically disconnected from India. While the East Indies have been under Dutch control, Indo-China has been occupied by the French. Siam has its own Government. Similarly Tibet and Japan. China is partially still independent, while Manchuria and Korea are in the grips of Japan. Mongolia is partially Sovietised. In spite of the difference in the political control of these countries inhabited by diverse people, the Indian culture still remains as the great bond of union. Political boundaries have been changing for the last 2,000 years ever since Indian culture spread to these countries. Different dynasties have ruled over them, sometimes they have been free and sometimes dependent. But Indian culture has come down as one continuous flow. The only tragic thing has been that for centuries past the people have altogether lost consciousness of their connection with India. The last pilgrims from China to India came in the 10th century. After that the Islamic hordes became a permanent barrier for any civilised and peaceful intercourse between Central Asia and India. India has also stopped sending her missions to

these northern lands. Even in the case of Tibet, intercourse has become restricted to the extreme. But the deciding factor in cutting India from her Colonies in the north has been the disappearance of Buddhism from the land of its origin. The Chinese and other neighbouring peoples, who had gladly accepted all hardships of the long and arduous journey to India, what interest and love could they retain for India when Buddhism was no longer here. The same applies to Tibet, Burmah and Ceylon. There has always been intercourse of culture. We no longer send teachers and we no longer get pilgrims. The glory of India lies in the distribution of spiritual gifts. When we withhold these gifts, we have no right to expect any thing. We cannot go on banking what our ancients did for us. There is again a wave in the different Buddhist countries, and they are once again undertaking pilgrimage to India, but these pilgrims pay their entire homage to ancient India and to ancient monuments of India and none to present India.

The purpose of my writing these sentences is, however, a bit more than has been indicated so far. Indians themselves must accept the role of pilgrims to these lands where vast and grand monuments of her ancient culture stand, proclaiming their eternal message to the world. These monuments lie deserted and uncared for. They lie in the midst of jungle, birds and beasts reside in their

shattered grandeur and holiness. The loving and devoted hand of man has long disappeared. In place of light there is constant darkness. Would the Indians not once again go and devote their honest care on these monuments, restore them back to their pristine glory and establish them afresh for diffusing India's message to the inhabitants of these countries? The idleness and the infamy of a thousand years or even more are to be made good. We should be starting shiploads of pilgrims and teachers to all these countries year after year carrying with them goodwill and understanding. People who can afford should come forward as pioneers of this great work, scholars and explorers have to contribute their strength. Artists are equally necessary. For not only beauty which resides in the soul of man but also a great art shelters India's spirituality. Nowhere in the world has art served humanity in its different functions of nobility has in our culture. We need priests who will once again light new lamps and will not let them die out again. No Government can stand in our way. It is only our own wretchedness which blocks the way. All over India, from every province, pilgrims in large numbers should be forthcoming to undertake these journeys full of romance, promising new lands and new peoples, who are waiting to honour you. I should like very much to be in communication with people who are prepared to do so.

PAKISTAN: ITS IMPLICATIONS

By Mr. C. V. H. RAO

(Editor, "Indian Nation", Patna)

ONE point that emerged out of the Viceroy-Jinnah correspondence recently released was that the Viceroy was not prepared to countenance the claim of the Muslim League for making the Pakistan scheme adumbrated by the League at its last annual session at Lahore a live issue during the pendency of the war or to consider it a matter for immediate decision. He, of course, agreed that the question could be brought up in the course of the constitutional discussions that will take place after the war when the whole scheme of the Government of India Act of 1935 would be open for review. The attitude of the Hindu Mahasabha, which has expressed uncompromising opposition to Pakistan, was also, perhaps, responsible, in part at least, for the Viceroy's reluctance to accept Mr. Jinnah's demand for recognition of the separate Muslim nation or, in other words, the two nations' theory. Nevertheless, the League Pakistan propaganda has in a way entered on a new and intensified phase with the appointment of a Pakistan Deputation to tour Bihar, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and other provinces and create enthusiasm for the scheme among the Muslim masses of these provinces. It may be noted that the deputation is to confine its propaganda mainly to those provinces where the Muslims are in a minority in the population and where during the regime of the Congress ministries, it was loudly proclaimed that atrocities were perpetrated against Muslims by the latter.

The work done by the deputation in Bihar and the United Provinces so far

has been more to denounce the Congress and the Hindus—especially the former—for their alleged hostility to the Muslims than to put forward dispassionate and convincing arguments in support of the Pakistan scheme. Nevertheless the more important implications of the scheme, which have remained utterly obscure so far, should be drawn attention to. Some of the earlier writers on the subject have traced the origin of the word 'Pakistan' to the initial letters of the Punjab, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Sind and the last three letters of Baluchistan. It is claimed that these territories are predominantly Muslim populated for the last twelve hundred years, and that they have a history, civilisation and culture of their own distinct and separate from the rest of India or 'Hindustan' as it is called. The River Jamuna is the demarcating line between these two territories of 'Pakistan' and 'Hindustan', according to these writers. It may have been, the Pakistanites argue, that in the first few centuries after Christ, Hindu empires and Hindu civilisation and culture flourished in these areas as in other parts of India; but ever since the 8th century A.D., the Hindus have been a minority community there. The area comprised in the territorial divisions mentioned above is for the Muslims, *Dar-ul-Islam* or 'the Land of the Pious', the homeland of the Muslims, where they intend to be the sovereign people while the non-Muslim population in these areas is expected to be under the protection of the Faithful. The total population of the would-be Pakistan is about

42 millions, of which nearly 32 millions are Muslims and, therefore, they constitute more than 80 per cent. of the population and this is the principal argument on which they base their claim to a separate nation. The Muslims, it is further claimed, went to other parts of Hindustan as conquerors and rulers though with the rise of the British, their empire ceased and they remained in the conquered areas as a minority. In so far as that is so, they are entitled to sufficient and ample—which in reality means more than sufficient and ample—safeguards appropriate to the dignity of a race which once ruled over them.

The Muslim League has not so far worked out the details of the Pakistan scheme which was adopted officially by it at its Lahore session in December 1939. But if and when the League comes to the stage of discussing and filling in the practical details, it is very likely to find itself pitted against two or three rocks of difficulties of a particularly dangerous type on which it is likely to wreck itself. At the moment these factors I am mentioning to demonstrate, if not the obvious impracticability of the idea at least the very serious nature of the difficulties inherent in its implementation. In the first place, there is the question of what will happen to the minority populations in the areas where the independent sovereign Muslim States are to be established. In the proposed state in the North-West these minorities, the two most important of which are the Hindus and the Sikhs, constitute about 82 per cent. of the population while in the North-East state of Bengal and Assam, the Hindu minority will be even larger. Unless the Pakistan

States can arrange for a wholesale migration of these minority populations from their territories, which is wholly impossible, or arrange for a mutual exchange of populations with the Hindu states, they will only aggravate the seriousness of the minorities problem. An alternative is of course to reduce the Hindu and Sikh minorities to a position of complete subordination to the majority, but this will in no case be tolerated at least so far as the Punjab is concerned, either by the highly advanced Hindu community or the virile and martial community of Sikhs. They will demand ample and effective safeguards and political and other rights which the sovereign Muslim states will have to grant to them or these latter will have to experience the consequences of having dissatisfied and restless sections within the body politic, which will be a source of grave danger to the stability of the State itself. There is nothing so far in what the Pakistan propagandists have been saying to warrant the conclusion that they contemplate either wholesale migration of Hindus from the Pakistan states or a mutual exchange of populations between themselves and the Hindustan states. In such a case they will have to concede all the safeguards and rights which the minority communities will demand, which means in effect that the position will not be at all different under Pakistan than what it is at present. In a democratic constitution such as India is aspiring for, one of the principal conditions will be the introduction of adequate constitutional safeguards for the minority communities wherever they may be. That proposition has been accepted both by the British Government through the Viceroy and by the Congress, though

the Congress has mentioned only the Muslim community as being entitled to decide upon the safeguards that will be necessary for it. There can thus be no special virtue in demanding the cutting up of the country into Muslim zones and Hindu zones and setting up what are called independent Muslim states when the arrangements for the protection of minority rights, which are the principal bone of contention now and for the securing of which the Pakistan scheme has been formulated, are to be the same under that scheme as under any other democratic constitution for the whole country.

Nor is there any indication so far that the Muslim minority populations in the Hindu majority provinces are very anxious to leave their hearths and homes and migrate wholesale to the Pakistan areas. In fact except for some vocal, vociferous Muslim League politicians in Bihar and the United Provinces, the vast majority of the Muslims have displayed remarkably little enthusiasm for Pakistan. They have remained indifferent to it so far, while some prominent Muslims in both these provinces, even as Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan in the Punjab, have never concealed their disapprobation of and disagreement with the Pakistan propaganda. It is this apathy on the part of the Muslims in these two important Hindu majority provinces that has been partly responsible for the decision of the League to send out a propaganda deputation to tour these areas and whip up enthusiasm for Pakistan among the former. Of course, Muslims in these Hindu majority provinces want to have safeguards and protection for their rights and no one denies that they are entitled to them. In Bihar, for example, though the Muslims are only

18 per cent. of the population, their representation in the Legislature and in the Services is as much as 25 or even 30 per cent. in some cases, and no Muslim can deny that it is not either adequate or satisfactory. If, however, Pakistan is forced upon India as a result of bitterness or violence, there is a legitimate apprehension among the Bihar Muslims that they will have to face a hard time with the Hindu majority. Pakistanites assure the Muslim co-religionists that they have nothing to fear from the majority community in the Hindustan provinces so long as there are Hindu minorities in the Pakistan provinces, the obvious implication of the assurance being that if the Muslims in the former are not properly treated by the Hindus, the Hindu minority in the latter will be made to feel the pinch and thus the equilibrium will be restored. It is extremely problematical whether the Muslim minorities in Bihar, the U. P., Madras or the Central Provinces will feel that this indirect and rather unsafe method of having their rights safeguarded is a satisfactory one on which any reliance can be placed.

Next to the problem of the minorities, the two other problems that will confront the new sovereign and independent Muslim states will be those of finance and defence. The whole of India is one entity at present and is under one Central Government; even so the defence of her frontiers is a matter of extreme difficulty and considerable concern today to that Government. Under the scheme of two sovereign Indias, the question will inevitably arise as to which part of India's will be the responsibility for the defence

of the frontiers. The possibility cannot be overlooked of the Muslim state in the North-West joining hands with other Islamic countries further West and proving a menace to Hindustan. Will the latter be entitled to post her armies at the North-West frontier to prevent this infiltration of a combined Islamic onslaught on her integrity or will she be forced to defend herself only when the menace actually reaches her frontiers? In the latter case there will be perpetual need for Hindustan being prepared for a conflict with Pakistan, which means a state of civil strife between the two Indias and a direct encouragement to any aggressor to profit by their weakness.

Nor is it possible to be rest assured that economically and financially the Pakistan States will be self-sufficient. Pakistanites console themselves with the comforting thought that when these areas are properly and systematically developed and their natural resources fully and systematically exploited, they will become rich territories and capable of maintaining an efficient administrative machinery and of undertaking ameliorative measures for the people's benefit. It is indubitable that these areas and their resources are susceptible of development, as in fact many areas in other parts of India and their resources are susceptible. Even so it will not only take a number of years to do it, but even after it is done it may be that the results will not be commensurate with expectations. They will have to go through the painful experiences of unbalanced budgets, financial disequilibria and economic crises and other incidental evils for which nominal political independence may not be sufficient compensation.

And, lastly, there is the question of the Muslim Indian States in the Hindu majority areas, which will be like small islands in the midst of an engirdling sea of Hindustan. What will happen to a state like Hyderabad in case all the Hindustan provinces constitute themselves into a Hindu federation? Will Hyderabad join that federation or will it hold aloof or will it coalesce with the Pakistan states in forming a Muslim federation? In the latter case how will adjustments be possible as regards tariff barriers, defence and other vital matters involving considerable administrative difficulties? Similarly what will happen to a state like Kashmir which is to be an integrate part of Pakistan but which is at present ruled by a Hindu Prince? If the latter is to be liquidated, it will be legitimate to demand that the Hyderabad state also should be liquidated because the vast majority of the Hyderabad subjects are Hindus. No attention has been bestowed on these highly complicated problems so far.

The Lahore resolution of the Muslim League, which constitutes at the moment the first precise demand for the division of India into two States, Hindu and Muslim, has not yet been explained in detail by any Muslim Leaguer. Nevertheless we have repeated assertions by Leaguers that Pakistan offers the only honorable solution for the age-old Hindu-Muslim problem and that they are prepared to shed their blood for the attainment of the ideal. Muslim poets and a few other writers may have dreamed of a separate and independent Muslim State in India to compensate for the loss of the Muslim Empire in India. But in its recent manifestations it is mainly the result of

the Muslim League's anxiety to secure a preponderating influence over Muslim opinion and the sequel to the political ambitions of some of its leaders. But when its implications are worked out, it will be found that it is a highly disintegrating ideal aiming at the vivisection of India without benefitting either the Muslims or the Hindus. It will in fact raise a far greater number of new problems pertaining to Hindu-Muslim relations and majority and minority relations than it will solve and will not provide any kind of satisfactory remedy of the difficult problem of safeguarding the interests of the Muslim minority, which, in fact, can be the only *raison d'être* for Pakistan.

But while some of the Muslim poets and writers may have dreamt of the two nations' idea to satisfy their imagination about the revival of the glorious days of Muslim domination in India, while a predominant section of Muslim Leaguers advocate it and proclaim their determination to see it become an accomplished fact in order to realise their political ambitions, notwithstanding the indubitable fact that they are flying thereby in the face of history, it is puzzling as to why the Britishers should countenance the scheme which amounts to a repudiation of their own efforts through nearly a century and a half to build up a united India. It is a mystery which remains to be explained.

NAZI TOTALITARIANISM

BY PROF. P. J. THOMAS, D. PHIL. (Oxon), M.L.C.

IN the nineteenth century, the State was a mere policeman, but in the twentieth, it has extended its authority over all directions, largely due to the force of economic influences, and to-day, over a large part of Europe, the State has become totalitarian. Soviet Russia was the first to establish such a State in modern times and communism was the driving force. Since then Italy and Germany have adopted totalitarianism, which although different in methods is similar in essence to the Russian political model. Portugal and Spain have also scrapped democracy and are ruled by dictators, but they have not adopted totalitarianism of the kind prevailing in the three States just mentioned. Democracy has thus fallen on evil days, and France, which was its home, has had to shelve,

if not abandon, it. Even in Great Britain and the U. S. A. democracy is now working under severe restrictions.

Mussolini has supplied the motto for totalitarianism, although he is not the worst of the totalitarians. "Nothing outside the State, nothing against the State, everything within the State, everything for the State." In other words the State must be all in all. The worst tyrants of the ancient or the Middle Ages had not a fraction of the power now wielded by the dictators. Louis XIV said *L'etat c'est moi*, but he had little real power compared with Hitler or Stalin. It was not because Louis XIV did not want it, but because he had not the means of acquiring and effectively carrying out such power. Modern science has forged the

weapons for totalitarianism and dictatorship—stern repression and shameless propaganda. There is only one party possible in the totalitarian State and that party must run the government according to its own ideology. All the liberties, civil and political, recognized in democracy are mercilessly scrapped in the totalitarian State, and only one man has any liberties, and that man is the dictator himself.

SOVIETISM AND NAZISM

It is true that Soviet Russia was the first country to establish totalitarianism of the modern type; it is also true that Fascism and Nazism came as a reaction against Sovietism. But the reaction has gone much further and nowhere has totalitarianism reached such extreme limits as in Nazi Germany. When compared to the Nazi model, the totalitarianism of Italy, and even that of Russia, now looks mild. While it is true that both Sovietism and Nazism are against liberty and are injurious, it must be admitted that the Soviet, at least in theory, stands for equality and cosmopolitanism, but the Nazi scoffs at equality, claims divine right for the Nordic race and considers other races as inferior breeds. The Soviet dictator is only the supreme leader; but the Nazi Fuehrer is much more than a leader—he is God's own chosen vicegerant. Divorces may be easy in Russia, but the number of divorces is not tremendously large. In Germany, owing to a craze for the increase of population, immoral practices are openly preached and perhaps practised. Russia has no need for God or religion, but Germany has gone one better by enthroning a racial God and investing the Fuehrer with divine powers. The new blood-and-land cult of Germany is certainly more

injurious than the most obdurate atheism. Sovietism has been changing and may perhaps eventually evolve into a high-grade State-socialism, but Nazism is the rake's progress and is bound to end in a smash-up.

THE NAZI DRIVE

I happened to be in Germany in the three critical years of its recent history, namely, 1922, 1928 and 1933, and can claim some personal knowledge regarding the circumstances that led to Nazi revolution and the drastic political and economic changes that it ushered in. In 1922, Germany was at the nadir of her economic fortunes, owing greatly to the despondency resulting from defeat in the world war and to the impoverishment of the middle classes by an unexampled inflation proceeding on a fantastic tempo. However, owing largely to foreign loans, German industry revived and a high state of prosperity came over the country by 1928-29. But the world economic crisis stemmed the tide of this prosperity drive and as the foreign loans stopped, German industry was plunged into a perilous condition and the number of the unemployed rose to 6 millions. Brüning's deflation policy further aggravated the situation. All this facilitated the Nazis coming into power in 1933.

Before 1933, Germany was ruled by a democracy and the Government was largely controlled by the people organised in various parties, but in 1933, the country came under the rule of one party led by one man—Adolf Hitler. All the old parties were abolished and the National Socialist Party (Nazi) made itself the government. The Reichstag (Parliament) now meets only to register Hitler's decrees, and that too only occasionally. Before 1933, Germany witnessed an efflorescence of

Christian life. The Catholic Church, the most numerous and compact religious body there, carried on a vigorous spiritual and social activity through a large number of powerful country-wide organisations. The Centre Party largely represented Catholic opinion. The Nazis set up a totalitarian State and abolished everything which went against their interests. Thus the Centre Party was killed and most of the Catholic organisations were put an end to.

HUMAN SOUL IN CHAINS

The result has been the enslavement of the human soul in Germany. In the universities I visited in 1935, Nazi ideas had corrupted learning, and I heard learned professors affirming in their lectures that might was right. At the entrance to many universities was a large portrait of Hitler and every student or teacher who went in had to bow to it, failing which he was expelled. Many professors whom I had met in Germany in 1928—not all Jews—were expelled or are in concentration camps.

Under Nazism, the whole life is regimented by the State. The inexorable character of this regimentation can be seen from the following statement by a Nazi leader:—"We begin with the child when he is three years old. As soon as he begins to think he gets a little flag put in his hand; then follows the school, the Hitler Youth, the S. A. and military training. We don't let him go till he dies, whether he likes it or not." The State takes such a strong hold of the youth that he or she is expected to give secret information to the Gestapo regarding their parents' activities. Even Sparta in her halcyon days did not claim such a complete control over her youth. The life

of the grown-up man or woman is also equally regimented. The State prescribes from time to time what food to eat, what clothes to wear, what books to read, what meetings to attend, etc.

TOTAL WAR

All this regimentation is with a purpose—to prepare Germany for aggression. Germans have always believed that they were destined to rule the world, and this idea has found expression in German thought for a long time. The Nazis have caught hold of this idea and from their very inception they have been harping on this theme, and the whole of their programme is aimed to that end. Germany needs lebensraum (living space), and it is her birthright to acquire fresh territories, even by extinguishing or enslaving the inhabitants therein. (After all, those non-Aryan races are inferior people.) Therefore the Nazis set to work from 1933 to rearm Germany, and this has involved complete regimentation of men and material, because the war is to be a "total war", i.e., a war in which the whole nation and its resources are utilized to the full. Total war is the inevitable counterpart of the totalitarian State.

GUNS OR BUTTER

This total war has involved not only the drilling and dragooning of men, women and children, but also the utilization of all the resources for military purposes. Modern warfare requires large quantities of metals, textiles and foodstuffs. It also involves the conversion of a vast quantity of foodstuffs for making military equipment. A great deal of fats, starch, rubber, etc. are required for armament. Therefore oils which otherwise would

have been used for food (as margarine, etc.) have gone into the armament industry. Similarly foodgrains have been used for making starch, sugar for glycerine, potato for power alcohol. As Germany has no internal supplies of rubber and petrol, such articles had to be made synthetically, and this has been done by using material which would otherwise have been used for ordinary consumption. Field-Marshal Goering's poser, "Guns or butter?", has therefore a real meaning and the whole policy has severely limited the supply of consumption goods for the civilian population.

"HEIL HUNGER"

The result has been hunger and starvation. In a recent book, "Heil Hunger", Dr. Martin Gampert draws a picture of Germany starved, alike of mental and

physical nourishment, doped, intoxicated and driven like galley slaves and left in a state of nervous prostration. How long can this go on? In spite of the most careful propaganda, the truth is bound to dawn on the German people, and however intoxicated with power the war lords may be, the common people are sure to come to their senses soon.

The tide may turn any day. And then the consequences may be disastrous, not only to the Hitler regime, not only to the Nazi ideology, but to the German people as a whole. The position of the occupied territories is also pitiable. With imminent starvation staring in the face, Europe in the coming winter will have a terrible time. America may perhaps avert this, if they play their cards effectively, and in good time.

INFLUENCES ON RABINDRANATH

BY MR. UMA NATH BHATTACHARYYA

IT is interesting to study the influences of the indigenous and foreign literature over Rabindranath. In this short discourse



MR. RABINDRANATH TAGORE

I intend to discuss the Indian influences only. But before entering into this

discussion, it must not be forgotten that all powerful writers, particularly not-of-born poets like Rabindranath, stand on their own legs and walk with great freedom in the realm of literature. Those who are true poets illumine every object of the world with the light of their genius. The poets need not like the moon borrow light from others. Cannot a poet influence another then?

The answer to this question is that a poet may be influenced by another indirectly and without his knowledge, but he is not wakeful and conscious of it. Though every poet is a born poet, yet it requires time for the unfoldment of his genius and the development of his poetic faculty. Before attaining the end, in course of

this unfoldment and before he makes out his own path, it is but natural that a poet may more or less be influenced by his predecessors whose works are fascinating to him. It is not at all a loss of prestige to confess this indebtedness. It is the weak who shirk from taking loans, for they know for certain that it will never be possible for them to make them free from this debt. But those who are strong and have the self-confidence raise loans according to their requirement and repay it to the farthing with interest. In the works of *Kalidas*, the influence of the authors of the *Ramayana* and the *Skandapurana* can be seen; on Shakespeare the influence of Marlowes, on Ynanadas and Govindadas that of Chandidas and Vidyapati, respectively, can well be discovered. There are other instances as well. These poets are born poets, one and all. Basing their writings on the models of their predecessors, they have created exquisitely wonderful literature of their own by dint of their own poetic power in which the new sublimity has completely enveloped the past. Materials are lying everywhere in this wide world, but to build, to shape, to create, to reveal and to elevate are the sacred trusts of the poets. In the literary world there is no such word called stealth. Assimilation is the term which is found there. In other words, it may be called asset or acquisition.

In studying the life-history of Rabindranath, it is seen that this great scholar-poet has gathered materials for his works from many excellent literatures of the world and has created new and matchless forms of literature. As he read the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharat* from his early boyhood, these immortal epics of Valmiki

and Vyasa left a very deep impression on his heart as on so many other poets of this sub-continent. Innumerable instances can be quoted from Tagore, where the influence of the works of those two world-figures can be noticed. 'Language and Rhyme', 'Genius of Valmiki', 'To Ahalya', 'Coronation of Love', 'Meeting between Karna and Kunti', 'Appeal of Gandhari', 'Farewell from Heaven', etc., may be mentioned in this connection.

The second great influence upon Rabindranath is that of the Vaisnava poets of Bengal. From his early youth, Rabindranath mastered the poems of these poets so perfectly that he imbibed the words and tones, melody and rhyme, language and ideas of these lyrics and making them his own, wrote a book of lyrics called "Songs of Vanu-singha". In style and vocabulary this book is exactly like that of the ancient vaisnabe-school of poets of 15th and 16th centuries whose songs and lyrics have acquired a very prominent place in world-lyrics. The born-singer, Rabindranath, has drunk deep at the spring of his country's poetry. In very many places of his poems the influence of the works of these poets is found. Vaisnava poems are essentially love-poems. Poet Rabindranath has presented these peerless and exquisite lyrics of love in a wonderfully novel style and enchanting form.

The third influence over Rabindranath is that of Beharilal, the greatest lyricist of pre-Rabindra era. It was Beharilal who gilt the new horizon and opened a new vista in the field of modern Bengali lyrical poems. He saw nature in new perspective. Insatiable thirst for the Eternal Beauty was the source of his inspiration. In his

young age, Rabindranath came in contact with this poet and was greatly influenced by him. From Beharilal, he got the message of beauty-worship. In fact, many say that Beharilal was the first master of Tagore. In many poems of his early youth including "Golden-boat", the idea and rhymes of Beharilal's 'Sarada-mangal' and 'Banga-sundari' can easily be traced.

But influence of Kalidas, the greatest poet of India, is the strongest on Rabindranath. The two poets of India who have become world-favourites are the poets of Sakuntala and Gitanjali. Rabindranath is the worthy heir of Kalidas and has ably inherited his literary spirits. In his description of Nature and Indian seasons, particularly of the Rainy season, Kalidas is unsurpassed in poetry. Rabindranath too is the poet of 'cycle of seasons', 'studio and amphitheatre of seasons'. In endless way he has described the inward and the outward beauties of the rainy season. The other seasons also have found a new meaning and beauty in his poems and songs. These two poets have not only pictured the outward beauty of Nature, but have suggested the mysterious link that exists between Nature and human heart. 'Cloud-message', 'Birth of Kumar', 'Ideal World', 'Poetry', 'Dream' and others are a few examples where Kalidas' hand can be detected.

In describing the feminine beauty, Kalidas is second to none. Directly or indirectly he has described woman and her charms in many ways. He has never lost any opportunity of picturing her. Like Kalidas, Rabindranath is also a poet-worshipper of beauty. His pen has lent an uncommon enchantment in the description of beauty. Rabindranath also has

given womanhood a prominent place in his works and has idealised it.

The fifth influence over Rabindranath is that of folk-songs, folk-lore, songs of Bowls and mendicants and legends and traditions of Bengal. Without the magic touch of the songs of one's own native land, it is not possible to achieve anything great in the field of songs. Rabindranath's popularity among the masses rests mainly on the wonderful spell of his songs. By drinking deep at the spring of this indigenous songs of his motherland, this child of songs has breathed into a new wonderland of songs and has sung so madly well that we can hardly check ourselves in going merrily round him equally intoxicated when we read this class of his songs. Whatever he has touched, he has gifted it with uncommon sublimity and has imprinted on it the most exquisite works of art by his genius and originality. In "Manasi" and "Sisu", he has given a very charming picture of the folk-tale world and the Bengali fairyland.

Besides the five influences enumerated above, there are two others by far the grandest Indian influences over Rabindranath. These, I mean, are the influences of the Vedas and the Upanishads, the most sacred heritage of our country and the influence of Buddhism and the Buddhistic literatures. Rabindranath had the good fortune of being born in a distinguished family where from his infancy he was brought up in the life-giving atmosphere of the Vedas and the Upanishads. The teaching of these holy books is to realise the True, the Good and the Beautiful in life. The poet learnt that in order to enjoy this life of ours, we

must live in complete harmony with Nature. In fact, he has spent many a day and moonlit night in peaceful abode of Nature amidst the beautiful tree and creepers by the side of gentle rivulets and flooded streams, now enjoying the fragrance of flowers and murmuring ripples of brooks and songs of birds and now the fearfully dancing waves of the rivers, becoming one, as it were, with light and shade, rays of the sun and light of the moon, the earth and the sky and land and water, the entire creation so to speak. This union and intimacy with Nature has sweetened his poetry. Our poet has realised the Joyous One in his life and has felt Him within his heart. This will be brought home to any one, who will study his 'Gitanjali', 'Gitali', 'Naibedya' and 'Religious songs'.

I shall conclude this essay briefly touching on the Buddhistic influence. By his pity and sympathy for every living

being and by his astonishing example of renunciation, Lord Buddha has set a very noble ideal before the world. Man's spiritual life has been greatly enriched by him. His teachings are still working in the world to this day and shaping the lives and moulding the characters of thousands. This life and teaching of Buddha has struck a chord of his heart and the poet has written several ballads and narrative poems on legends and tales of Buddhistic era to glorify his great renunciation. Thus it is seen that Rabindranath has collected precious gems from almost every place in order to decorate the shrine of the Goddess of Poetry, the ideal of his lady-love. In the hermitage of Bengali literature, this poet sage of India has brought into existence by his devotion a divine stream of thought and culture in which the current of all world literatures have entered in sweet peaceful harmony.

THE INDIAN PRESS

By MR. POTHAN JOSEPH

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AS a news-editor with the faculty for viewing events from different angles, Mrs. Margarita Barns made her mark more than ten years ago when with limited resources she maintained a news service to India from London with distinctive qualities. Her book on the Indian Press is a solid study of the growth of public opinion in India and will always have its place on the shelf of every newspaper office as a work of reference. Not that it is lacking in narrative interest, for the story of happenings given from Chapter 4 to Chapter 10 provides live

reading and forms an interesting record of the conflict between Authority and free opinion. There is a wealth of incident in the many devices used by Authority in its relations with organs of public opinion. Since circumstances have forced on the Indian Press another ordeal of censorship, it is well to recall that newspapers in India had in the past endured many restrictions which no doubt offended the dictum of Milton: "Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue, freely according to my conscience, above all liberties."

Mrs. Barns* sails hugging the coastline of political excitement in India. The struggle was of course for the realization of Milton's theme in the *Areopagitica*. In the beginning it was coloured by the fact that the East India Company had been a trading organisation but as the exposition proceeds to the middle of the book, we have a reporter's narration of the non-co-operation movement. The book is a personality-parade of administrators and adventurers in the earlier chapters while later full corroboration is given of its sub-title "A History of the Growth of Public Opinion in India." In the introduction of printing as an epoch-making event, Indians were not far behind the people of Europe. There was a lag of only one hundred years when Portuguese Jesuits arrived on the scene with the art of printing as an innovation. We had been accustomed to feats of memory and accomplishments of calligraphy. Aurangzebe is said to have copied the Quran during the heat of battle but the marvel of printing was the fast multiplication of copies. The Portuguese missionaries employed it for pious propaganda, but the business man was waiting round the corner to exploit printing as a trade, and journalism as a medium for publicity. The historical sense is sustained by Mrs. Barns with the parallelism she gives in respect of dates, a very serviceable feature which text-books of history should copy when students are taught Indian History in one period and European History in another. The East India Company was up against what may be called the spirit of Protestantism which, in matters besides religion, prompts the

instinct of free criticism characteristic of the British people.

Hicky who produced the *Gazette* in Calcutta, was a journalist and a trader while Buckingham silk, deported because of his effrontery, was the first combative type of journalist in India. He was the professional man. The "Natives of India", as the Minutes of the East India Company describe them, were fast assimilating the secrets of the English language and the tenets of liberty. Indians took to it. The existence of the "Vernacular press" signified the entry of a new force in Indian evolution. Though Lord Lytton wanted to torpedo it by law, a vertical split divided the Press into the Anglo-Indian Press and the Indian Press. Indian writers soaked in Victorian Liberalism later lost ground with the onset of the Non-co-operation Movement, but there was an organic growth in the cultivation of modernism and the adaptation of Western ideas through Indian journals. The process was arrested when the credentials of heroic action in politics had nothing in common with the learned standards of an earlier day. Mrs. Barns' book is crammed with facts as the bibliography attached to it must prove, and right in the middle we are taken to a turn when journalism as a profession and a refinement in life is obscured by a new species of agitation. The interest in the career of an Editor seems largely restricted in the book to the question whether he had been to jail. As an eye-witness, the Non-co-operation drama must have gripped Mrs. Barns as indeed her previous work on India would testify. The journalists gained prominence by what they did outside their office, "joining the movement". There is no allusion, for

* Indian Press by Mrs. Margarita Barns. Publishers, George Allen & Unwin Ltd. Price 25 sh.

instance, to the remarkable influence exerted by a person called K. Natarajan, while those of lesser worth squeeze their way into the volume because of the circumstance that they had courted arrest. Sachidananda Sinha is not there, but Mr. S. A. Brelvi is mentioned as one who went to jail and because of that Brelvi eclipses Horniman who, despite his yeoman service to journalism as a profession, does not catch the judge's eye. If any man wishes to get a vivid grasp of the contributions rendered by Indian journalists to journalism in their specific role regardless of jail-going distinction, he should wait for an enlarged edition of the book. Upon the growth of the law of the land touching the business of journalism, the author has written with a full grasp of the subject. At the stage preceding the Round Table Conference, we find Mrs. Barns right in her element as a first-class news-hawk and we have choice presentations from political literature and quotable documents. Mrs. Barns' effort is a record of monumental industry without a wasted word (in fact she is rather austere in the use of words), and credit must be given to her for original features of its construction as book. The author is no lover of anecdotes. It consists of very comprehensive material assembled and interpreted in the language of what may be called bloodless culture. The impression we get is that every statement of the author has been framed after full verification.

Just as conspicuous personalities in the development of Indian journalism do not figure in essential parts of the narrative, the author was never attracted to an exposition of the growth of features in the contents of newspapers. There is no vision of journalism as an adventure. Observations about policy, modes of presentation, scoops, display of news, pep-tonized writing, illustrations and cartoons find no place in the book to give it a

specialised interest. Another ground for complaint would be the omission to recognize the rise of technical journalism; for instance, neglect of a journal like the *Indian Finance* does not suit an exhaustive study of the tendencies of Indian journalism, but then politics, legal history and the elucidation of ideas form the active direction of the author's mental compass in the production of the book. In a work of eminent pioneering, we do not expect to see all we want and it is better to judge thankfully of what we get and not what we miss. There is nothing casual about its contents, and its compactness of presentation cannot be excelled.

Mrs. Barns' work is a creditable performance worthy of being treasured by all who are proud of the rise of journalism in India and the ideological nexus it has preserved for India in her relations with British thought and British institutions. The price of the book cannot be called cheap but then there is nothing cheap in it, and I congratulate Mrs. Barns on her thoroughness and craftsmanship.

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ENGLAND "ON ITS TOES"

By HELEN. J. ROLLES, B.A.

BACK again in India, it is difficult to realise that a few weeks ago we were in England, sharing physically as well as mentally the strain of being so to speak 'under fire'.

It is a far cry from the peaceful life of an upcountry station in the Ceded Districts to the strange atmosphere of a South Coast town in wartime England. But our leave took us home a few days before war started, so after six years of homesick longing for the beauty and quiet of the England countryside, we arrived to the gloom of the blackout and the almost unbearable anxiety of those first days when Germany's intentions regarding Poland were still uncertain.

In those few days of waiting an incredible amount of quiet activity was taking place. The distribution of gas-masks had already been made, but the few individuals who like ourselves had been out of the country were supplied with them; all tiny babies were issued with protective bags, and toddlers with 'Mickey Mouse' masks (an attempt at producing a less repulsive object by the simple expedient of using red and blue materials and adding a nose!).

The blackout was perfected in every town, village and remote homestead in Great Britain; and here I would state that those who have only seen the subdued lighting of places like Bombay cannot possibly imagine the intense darkness of the English blackout. Walking down the street by night is like visiting a City of the Dead; except on rare moonlight nights, it is impossible to see the shapes of houses or even the sides of the road. The night driver, literally taking his life in his hands, guides his way by a white

line painted in the middle of the high road, by instinct in country lanes, for his car lights are so effectively masked that it is impossible to see even the white line more than a yard or two ahead. And it must be remembered that in winter night begins to fall at 4 p.m.

Thousands of children were transferred from London and certain dangerous coastal areas to safer regions in the country. It is a tribute to the efficiency of the vast machinery set in motion for this large-scale evacuation that there was not one accident during the process. It is also a tribute to the adaptability of British families that so many hundreds of them have willingly taken for an indefinite period school-children, teachers, and mothers with babies, often with a very different social background, and sometimes with rather trying personal habits. And all this in addition to the Jewish, Polish and Czech refugees we were already entertaining before Britain entered the war. For example, the children of one London school were supporting a Basque child, a Polish boy and a Jewish refugee.

As usual, Britain's peculiar sense of humour came to her people's aid in the most trying moments. The outburst of new songs in the early days of the war... 'Run, Adolf, Run'... 'Roll out the barrel' (usually associated with the figure of Goering)... and above all, 'We're gonna hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line', all gently poking fun rather than abuse at 'Old Hitler'... and such descriptive names as 'Lord Haw-Haw', 'Mr. Nasty', 'Shivver Sister' and 'Chatterbug' came to stay. Humour appeared in most unlikely situations, as in

the case of two country women I saw looking into a china shop. "That's a pretty tea-set", remarked one. "It's all right," replied the other grudgingly, "but I ain't going to get no new tea-set with old 'Itler coming over. My old one's good enough for 'im."

The B. B. C. was a very great factor in keeping up public morale, and their programmes helped us through the long gloomy evenings spent in heavily curtained and shaded rooms in England's coldest winter for fifty years. However bad the news, their entertainers never failed us, and it was—and is—still possible daily to forget all the horror for a brief spell because of their courage and self-forgetfulness. The essential normality of life in England was due largely to their efforts to keep the old pleasant ways of England going with music, drama, nature talks, advice on reading, and topical talks on catering as well as inspiring religious addresses and sermons.

In a special broadcast, the King himself called his people to a day of prayer, and he and the Queen have been foremost in pleading for a return to religion. There is nobody in England who doubts their sincerity, and there can be nobody in England who does not feel that the Royal Couple are truly one with their people. No special precautions are taken for their safety; they move around during air-raids to cheer, encourage and help. Their home has been damaged, their children evacuated and their family affected by the dangers of war. The Duke of Kent missed a bomb by a matter of yards; the Duchess's cousin was killed outright in an air-raid. The Duchess herself has completed her training (incognito) as a nurse for the wounded.

One of the remarkable things about this war is the great corporate effort that is being made and the tremendous unifying influence it has on the population. All are in it together; the hundreds of A. R. P. workers, men and women voluntarily sitting up at night after working 'all out' by day and already sacrificing all holidays—the humble shop-keeper who keeps a cigarette box on the counter and asks each purchaser of a new packet to "put one in for the boys"—men toiling on their allotments in their spare time—women knitting on trains and buses—housewives saving waste-paper, cartons and tinfoil, and refusing to waste a crumb of food—tradesmen patiently cutting out endless tiny tickets from ration books—children bravely leaving home and parents for a remote village or a safer country—and parents still more bravely sending them while they themselves stay at their posts.

One evening an extremely ragged and dirty little boy turned up at my back door asking for tinfoil. He had a large and heavy sack with him, too heavy for such a small boy, and after adding my small contribution I asked how far he had to carry it, remarking that it was too big for him. He looked at me with amazement mingled with scorn. "Who'd fetch it if I didn't?" he said. "I collects regular. "The 'ospital depends on me."

It is usually said, and said with reason, that war unleashes man's worst passions and destroys morality. However this may be, this particular phase of this war is undoubtedly purifying and strengthening the moral fibre of Britain. Unity of purpose, patience and cheerfulness under danger and suspense, and above

all unflinching resolution to see this through, to give all, if necessary, to save not only Europe, but the whole of civilization from the dreadful doom which threatens it if our cause is lost—these are the keynotes of life in England to-day.

As for ethical standards, perhaps it is sufficient comment on these to say that in a growing number of towns, owing to labour shortage, one sees the daily newspaper "selling itself". A pile of papers is left on the public pavement with a growing heap of money beside it. You take your paper and put down your coin, helping yourself to change when necessary. One never heard any complaint that the money was short.

When France, the last of our allies, capitulated, a railway porter was heard to remark: "So now it's only us. But old Hitler don't half know what a packet the British Empire is when it's on its toes!"

"On its toes" is a good description of the attitude of preparedness that England held for many months before the sporadic raids intensified into a Blitzkrieg. All defenses were strengthened when England became the sole battlefield, and night after night those of us who lived in 'defence areas' went to bed with everything prepared for midnight raids, windows barricaded against shattering glass, children put to sleep near the safest wall in the house, emergency food and first aid kit as well as gas-masks ready to hand. We all knew how to tackle incendiary bombs, what to do in case of invasion, how to recognise parachutists in disguise (!), and how to deal with all possible contingencies; but by far the most trying part of the suspense was not knowing what was coming next.

The promised Blitzkrieg took the form of intensified air attack, and those of us who were in the earlier raids in coastal areas can well imagine the horror of London's grimmer experience. And yet even that experience so far from producing the slightest signs of panic, serves but to steel London's resolution to destroy this evil thing that has come upon Europe.

Some months ago we were reminded by the Archbishop of York that we must think of ourselves primarily as Christians who happened also to be Britons, not as Britons who happened to be Christians, and there are millions of us who feel that it is our ideals and our religion rather than our nationality that compel us to resist even unto death what the Nazi regime represents.

There is a hymn often sung in England today, noble words to a fine old tune, both the products of Germany at her best, a best so great that she cannot but return to it one day. It is Martin Luther's great challenge to the world—"Ein feste Burg"—

"And were this world all devils o'er
All waiting to devour us,
We'll lay it not to heart so sore
Not they can overpower us.
And though they take our wife,
Goods, honour, children, life;
Yet is their profit small;
These things shall vanish all.
The City of God remaineth."

England is learning through suffering and bloodshed, and showing the world by the price she willingly pays, that in the last resort nothing matters but the things of the spirit—truth, liberty and honour—and that though we lose all our material possessions, even life itself, in every truth
THE CITY OF GOD REMAINETH.

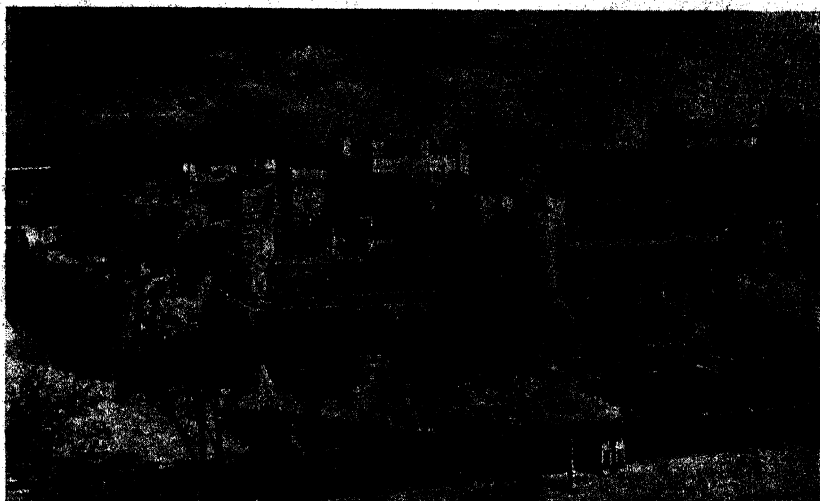
THE TOWER OF LONDON

BY MR. OLIVER MOORE

[By the River Thames in London stands one of the oldest fortresses in the world. A fortress, too, that has never been conquered; it is the Tower of London and within its walls many of the most vivid incidents in British history have been enacted.]

THE Tower of London recently hit by a German bomb, stands by the River Thames in Britain's capital, the

the foundations were being laid of the Louvre. Elizabeth comes to the throne and Versailles is still a swamp. This heart of England's had been beating 800 years when the Escorial was built and yet another century was to pass before Sans-Souci stood complete.



This picture shows the Tower as it stands to-day, its flag flying proudly, and its defenders—for the Tower has always maintained a small garrison of troops—are ready as ever to defend it. Tower Bridge is easily distinguished in the background.

very heart of England. Its great muscular walls are fifteen feet thick and ninety feet high. Its foundations root to depths unknown. It is the oldest fortress in the world. More, it is the only fortress in the world that has never been conquered.

It had stood vigil on the Thames 800 years before the Doge's Palace looked down at itself in the waters of Venice or the Kremlin shook its spears above Moscow. The Vatican is youth in stone measured by these heart-beats. Henry the Eighth was King of England when

Somewhere in its foundation is the still older fortress built by Julius Caesar, but it was the Tower begun by William the Conqueror 900 years ago which was to become the heart of Britain. It is worth noting that both these military geniuses chose the same spot to mark and seal their conquest; they meet near the main entrance where a part of Caesar's wall may still be seen in the south-east corner of William's White Tower.

King after king now added walls and towers within the central keep. Henry III.

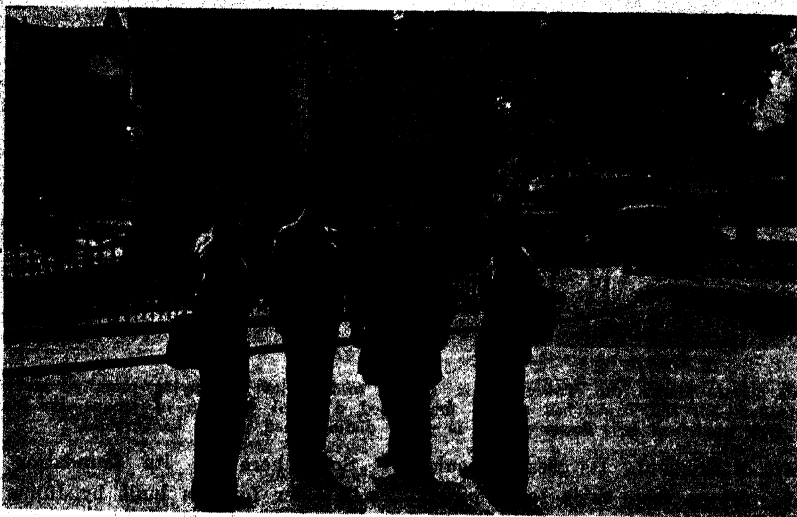
completed the fortress as it stands today; Richard Cœur de Lion deepened and widened the moat; Edward I. on his return from the Holy Land completed the outer defences.

Here in its first centuries lived the Kings of England with state departments for themselves and their nobles and barracks for the soldiery in the ramparts. Here was stored ammunition and food and stores and gold and jewels so that while remaining a royal palace it could also withstand siege if need be.

With law and lawyers grafted on the nation, the Tower became the scene of

Judicature before which even Queens were tried. Here was the Royal Mint for the coin of the realm, the treasure, the regalia. Here were the State prisons with dungeons beneath the moat with their dark cold sweating walls; the torture chambers; the chapel, to which the condemned were led for their last prayer before being beheaded on Tower Green.

So within the turreted walls which are the cradle of the British race, their first history played itself out, confined and domestic. It was with Queen Elizabeth that the Tower ceased for ever to be a Royal palace. Poor Elizabeth had spent



This picture shows Canadian soldiers standing outside the Tower and talking to one of the attendants or "Beefeaters" as they have been known for centuries. He is dressed in a costume that has not changed since the middle ages.

great political trials such as had not been seen before or since. With these came prisons where queens and nobles were housed and executed. Here in its Palace, Kings feasted and held revelry and set out for their Coronations at Westminster. Here was the ancient home of the Knights of the Bath and the Courts of

her early days there as a prisoner, and refused, as sovereign, to live in a spot where she had spent months in hideous suspense, between life and death.

But what was to be England's growing greatness was to be the Tower's decline. Now it became little more than a prison and a torture-house. Its name became a

terror in the land. To be "committed to the Tower" was synonymous with death, often unjust death, more often than not, tortured death. It became a hotbed of disease, dishonesty and extortion. Taverns were set up within the walls; mean buildings and storehouses blocked the gates and river front, almost obscuring the ramparts.

It was not till another queen ascended the throne that the Tower was restored to its former stateliness and beauty, if not to its Royal glory. During Queen Victoria's reign, the Tower was swept clean of these two centuries of rubbish and extraneous growth; the towers and ramparts repaired, and the whole place reconstituted as far as possible with the old plans which were still in existence.

the Beefeaters in their Elizabethan ruffs and doublet and hose, to remember that once they looked here free to fight and cheer at a popular execution, or riot at an unpopular one. And heaven knows they were frequent enough: queens, great nobles, prelates, soldiers and statesmen, guilty and innocent alike, passed under Traitor's Gate to Tower Green in a procession, to satisfy the most bloodthirsty.

Two of the most horrible were that in 1685 of the handsome James, Duke of Monmouth, son of Charles II, "the Uncrowned King", and that of the Countess of Salisbury in 1641. The valiant old Countess, who was 71, refused to lay her head on the block saying she had Plantagenet blood in her veins and would kneel to none and had to be chased by



This picture shows the Crown Jewels, which, until the war began, were on public exhibition at the Tower. Behind these bars is one of the most priceless collections of jewelry in the world.

It is hard, in an age where Londoners pay their shillings to take provincial aunts and nephews to see their foremost monument and pass in neat file behind

the executioner around the scaffold and hacked to pieces standing.

The Duke of Monmouth chafed with the executioner; felt the edge of the axe

and bade him do his work well and cleanly. He gave the man six guineas and told his servant to give him six more if he did his work well, then with great composure fitted his own neck to the block. A dreadful scene followed; three strokes were made but failed to sever the head. Throwing down his axe, the executioner offered forty guineas to any one who would complete the work. The people groaned and wept. Finally with two more strokes the executioner's work was over. When they tell this story at the Tower, they always reassure the tender-hearted by saying that the

second blow knocked the Duke senseless and the rest were more painful to the on-lookers than the victim.

It is not in stone and mortar alone that the Tower is the monument of England. All her youth and growth is within its walls; all those highlights of a nation's experience which long afterwards men call history. And if English hearts beat more quickly when they think of this fortress of theirs, it is not only at the thought that it is the oldest fortress in the world, but also at the knowledge that in all its thousand years it has never been conquered.

NEPAL TO-DAY

BY DR. RAMAN VASA, D.Litt. (Paris)

NEPAL is the last but the glorious relic of independent Hindu polity as a nation State. This mountainous country, having its metropolis in the valley surrounded by snow-clad sublimes of the Himalayas, ever remains superb, for, never in its history could any ill-intentioned alien penetrate the country and sully its freedom. Neither a religious bigot nor a pseudo-commercial traveller could ever dupe the sons of this 'Land of Gods'. This country knows no Mirkasims, no Umichands. Verily, India can look to Nepal with sentiments of reverence.

If the French and the English nationals express hope of continuing their struggle for free existence from their distant dominions in Algeria and Canada if necessary, the perturbed Hindus in their hour of need may well-nigh look with hope and inspiration to this seat of their ancient culture. Nepal deserves this honour; it has successfully withstood

against all attempts at de-culturalisation; thanks to its bold rulers and administrators.

It is no news to a student of modern Indian history now the Gurkhas hemmed the attempted Afghan onslaught over India in 1919 when at the end of the last War, Afghanistan wanted to take the advantage of the weakness of the British. This menace was more real when one remembers how some of the Mussalmans of India had the audacity to sympathise with the Afghan ambitions.

The Hindu culture in Nepal has never been of that passive renunciate type that often dupes a man of reality but on the contrary it is of the bold militant type that makes a man a stern fighter—a toiler who shirks not the struggle but faces bravely the grim situation in all its reality. This is not less surprising in view of the fact that even to-day Buddhism prevails in Nepal as a living religion with its ancient stupas and Vihars where the

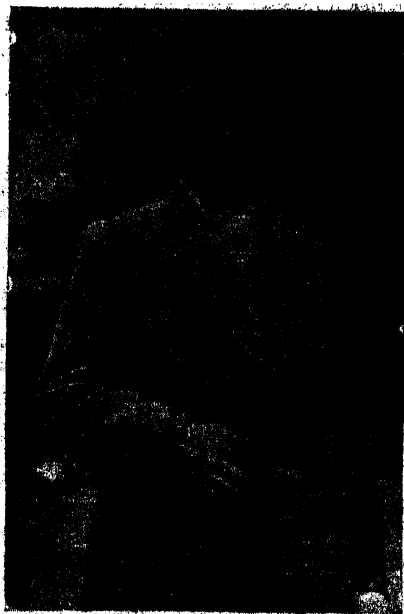
faithful follow the cult preached by the "Light of Asia". It is significant to remember that Lord Buddha was born at Lumbini which lies in the Nepal territory. The fame of the Gurkha valour is as resplendent as that of the old Rajputs. These fighters of necessity have learnt from their great leaders an exceedingly important thing, namely, how to live in order to maintain the great tradition of a great country. War is not their trade but the force to face an aggressor and with which to serve their friends faced with a similar danger.

The soul of Nepal is receptive to the universally seductive idea of independent national existence. After great trials the ferment of this idea salvaged from the old regime this definitely new Nepal which the British recognized and which now they trust as a reliable friend in deed and in need. This Nepal is the product of a revelation—the spontaneous and impressive revelation of the national conscience and a love for cultural solidarity.

The man who symbolised the change was Maharaja Chandra Shumsher. It was carried on by his successor, Maharaja Bhim Shumsher, and now falls to his beloved successor and collaborator the present ruler Maharaja Juddha Shumsher the task of consolidating Maharaja Chandra's achievements and of guiding the destiny of the country to higher levels of progress and prosperity. This task the respected ruler, Maharaja Juddha, has shouldered with rare courage and prudence.

With exemplary courage and munificence, Maharaja Juddha faced the delicate situation that was created by the earthquake catastrophe of 1934 which wrought great havoc throughout the country. Many beautiful buildings, temples and shrines with all their artistic splendour were but ruins. The all-round relief which he

brought to the suffering people through gifts, loans, concessions and donations was worthy of a Hindu ruler. The work of reconstruction was started in great earnest, with the result that within three years the disfigured faces of the ruins and the



MAHARAJA JUDHA SHUMSHER

capital were beautified with new roads, new buildings and new temples. Redemption loans were exoused and people soon forgot the mishap and blessed their ruler.

This builder, who has the whole confidence and all love of the people, is not one of those whom demagoguery produces. He is too honest and sincere to trade under false colours as do many a pseudo democrat in the present world over-riding with different *isms*. The simple ruler rests content with his ideals to rule the people for the good of the people. He knows that it is not only the ballot of the franchise that make the people better off. What the people want is a state of peace and security in which they can work and enjoy the fruits of their labour and participate in the cultural and the creative activities that may enable them

to live as men, true and noble. He is convinced that what is required universally all over the world is less disease, more bread and more enlightenment so that man may live with decency and dignity. Maharaja Juddha has hitched his waggon to achieve this for his people.

Nepal lives a rural civilisation; pastoral life is predominant and as yet the smoking chimneys and the crowded slums have not raised their ugly silhouettes against the clear sky-line. Peasants and farmers live a quiet existence. Ample facilities are available to them for progress. The land revenue is low; not only that, but the revenue of the first three years is remitted to a new holding. Protection is assured to the tenants against ejection and annoyance. Justice is accessible directly without cost of time and money.

Cottage industries and handicrafts thrive under State patronage, and protection is amply extended through high import levies. Nepal is well-known for its wood-carving, ivory and crystal work in art, and lepidary skill. Hand-made cloth and paper are common cottage industries. The Maharaja has set a worthy example for emulation by using the locally made articles.

Industrialisation on a big scale is not yet introduced. In a predominantly agricultural community, industrialisation, if introduced outside any planned economy, generally thrives at the cost of the agriculture. This idea explains in part Nepal's shyness as an industrial entrepreneur. Unemployment is thin. All through the country there are public rest-houses on the outskirts of the villages. There is always a place for human heads to rest.

A great deal of interest is evinced by the State in education. Education is free, not only the primary education but the secondary as well as the university education is free. There are several schools and a full-grade Arts college preparing students for the degree courses. There is a network of Sanskrit Pathshalas where education in Sanskrit language, grammar and philosophy is imparted by the Shastries. The State sends every year students with stipends to study Engineering, Mining, Forestry, Medicine, etc., in India. The State has its own institutions for Technical, Military and Agricultural training. It has its own S. S. L. C. Examination Board. Its present Department of Public Instruction under the guidance of General Mrigendra observes with great interest the modern developments in the educational field in leading countries of the world.

Under the auspices of the State, important publications in foreign languages are translated into the Nepalese language. Nepal has always been hospitable to foreign scholars and savants interested in research studies in ancient Indian civilisation. Shri Bir Manuscript Library has a big collection of unpublished manuscripts in Sanskrit, Pali, Tibetan and Chinese languages.

Lately, the State has enlarged its foreign department. It takes interest in contacts with foreign countries. Nepal has its ambassador at the Court of St. James's in London.

This is the ninth year of Maharaja Juddha's career at the helm of the State. Nepal celebrated the anniversary with great éclat.

Amazing Tale of German Stupidity

BY MR. A. T. SRESHTA

ON the 2nd April, 1917, the United States of America plunged into the maelstrom of international conflict. It was one of the most dramatic events of the Great War. But more startling was Britain's ingenuity which unravelled the skein of dark conspiracy the Germany had woven round U. S. A.

From the outset of the war, President Wilson, though pro-Ally, had determined to keep his country out of the European struggle. Besides, isolationists like Senator Borah and the German-American population in U. S. A. exercised great influence on his foreign policy.

The sinking of liners like the *Marina*, *Sussex*, *Housatonic* conveying American passengers and the sabotage of factories and munition ships, while they aroused a storm of indignation, did little to break the tradition of American neutrality. Even Col. House, Wilson's right-hand man, returning war-inclined after tour of the belligerent countries, failed to convince the President of the necessity of hostilities. The Monroe Doctrine acted as a powerful deterrent on all provocative influences, short of actual attack on U. S. A.

But by a curious fate, what none of these causes could accomplish, Germany itself brought to consummation by a foolhardy scheme which drew America in a flash to the side of the Allies.

Early in the war, Germany was appalled by the unceasing flow of U. S. munitions into Allied countries, while she herself was unable to command American markets owing to the naval blockade.

Berlin then decided to involve Mexico and Japan in a war with U. S. A. so as to effectually stop American munition export to Europe. An attempt in this direction had indeed been made in 1915 by Captain Rintelen, a German spy in U. S. A. but had failed.

One other event occurred which was to have far-reaching effect on the whole course of the war. Rintelen had in 1915 brought for the German Embassy at New York a most secret code to supersede the existing one which was suspected to be known to the enemy. But by sheer carelessness, this important code fell into the hand of an ill-paid junior clerk of the Embassy staff. He was set upon by British agents and persuaded to disclose the cypher.

For Britain, it was a priceless possession. Germany was now in her grip. Not till many years after the war did Berlin know that Britain had secured the code.

On the 14th January 1917, Zimmermann put himself in communication with Ambassador Eckhardt at Mexico City through his American representative Count Bernstorff.

Eckhardt was instructed to persuade Carranza, the President of Mexico, to

declare war on U. S. A. Carranza was also to be requested to induce Japan to rally to his side on the declaration of hostilities.

The Foreign Office at London intercepted this telegram and transmitted the decoded copy to President Wilson.

In America, the news was received with mixed feelings. "It is sheer forgery, Britain is intriguing," angrily declared some, while others, more sober, held their peace, hardly crediting that Germany would have dared to implicate two friendly nations in a war with U. S. A. An enquiry at the Washington telegraph office revealed a copy of the Zimmermann telegram in code despatched to New Mexico by Count Bernstorff. This copy was sent to London and deciphered in the presence of the U. S. Ambassador by two special experts (to whom only the code was known). The renderings of the British and the American telegrams tallied word for word.

Over U. S. A. swept a tremendous wave of indignation. Still, the pro-German Americans designated the whole affair as a carefully planned ruse of the British to inveigle their country into war.

Great Britain smiled and set about to draw the nets closer round the enemy. Germany, already, suspect, should be made to compromise herself beyond doubt.

Eckhardt quickly realised from publicity in the press that Wilson knew the contents of the Zimmermann telegram. Either the decoded telegram or the "most secret code" had leaked out. But how? And to whom was it known.

With Zimmermann, he began a telegraphic correspondence on the cause of the leakage. But to one great blunder was now added another. The despatches were sent again in the same code and Britain listened.

At London, the brains of the Naval Intelligence experts worked furiously on the possible consequences of this German enquiry. No, it would not do if the enemy were to conclude that the code was in the hands of the English. Germany would then change her tactics

and all hope of irrevocably incriminating her in the Mexican intrigue would be lost.

Admiral (now Sir) Reginald Hall, the Chief of the Naval Intelligence Service, forthwith summoned a reporter of the *Daily Mail*.

"Isn't British Intelligence Service stupid?" he asked.

"I don't follow, sir," replied the astonished reporter.

"America has secured the decoded Zimmermann telegram, while we have not a single German despatch to our credit. Isn't our service stupid, muddle-headed? Should it not be scrapped? . . . Publish this . . . As regards censorship, leave it to me," added Sir Reginald.

The dapper reporter smiled softly as the light dawned on him.

The following day, the columns of the *Daily Mail* blazoned out in glaring headlines the inefficiency and worthlessness of the British Intelligence and paid a striking tribute to the genius of the American Service which had contrived to obtain every decoded telegram from Berlin.

Germany fell into the trap. She believed that someone in America had betrayed the telegram and the blame fell on the German Legation in Mexico.

But Eckhardt proved that no treachery could have occurred in his office with the result that the Mexican conspiracy was taken up with renewed vigour. Britain was overjoyed and awaited developments.

America now moved rapidly. An explanation of the Zimmermann despatch was demanded. Berlin, rather non-plussed, replied, as an excuse, that the instructions were to be carried out only if America declared war on Germany.

This admission by Germany marked a new phase in U. S. foreign relations. America's rage attained fever-heat. Many pro-German Americans swung to Wilson's side.

At about the same time, Japan whose attention had been drawn to the Zimmermann telegram hastened to contradict misapprehensions regarding her foreign policy. "We cannot imagine what Germany is thinking of when she suggests the possibility of ourselves to be entangled in a war with the United States."

Japan adheres faithfully to her pact with the Allied Powers."

This was a blow that might have quenched the ardour of the most determined conspirator.

But amazing to relate, Germany pursued her schemes with a perseverance that, in retrospect, surpasses all credulity. All the while, Britain savedropped and transmitted the messages to U. S. A.

Soon after, Eckhardt wired: "I have received offers of help for purposes of propaganda from several quarters." And from Berlin: "Please ascertain the type of arms and munitions required. . . . Mexico must try to obtain arms as far as possible from Japan and South America."

Further details were worked out: supply of money to agents, landing of arms at secret ports, and finally instructions to set fire to the Tampico oil-fields. The torpedoing of the *Omnarder Laconia* with Americans on board and the U. S. vessels *Algonquin* and *Healdton* put the seal to Germany's fate.

American patience had come to breaking point. What was before a storm became now a roaring tornado. War-fever swept U. S. A. like a hurricane. And the Southern States, till then inclined to favour Germany, came with a bound to the side of the Allies.

America struck. Across the Atlantic sped U. S. Men-of-War with troops and munitions for continental battle-fields.

Modern history affords no parallel to the downright stupidity with which Germany worked out the plot in Mexico. Before his arrest, Bintelen had obtained definite proof that the code was stolen; but the German Naval Attache at the Embassy, who had charge of the cypher and who prided himself on the water-tight secrecy of his office, scoffed at the mere idea of theft. Later, Eckhardt, though aware that the code was unsafe, still cabled in the same code. From start to finish it was a piece of incredible folly, which brought a Great Power against Germany, the moral effect of which counted for much more than the mere addition to the Allies' numerical strength. Within twenty months, Germany was brought to the knees.

KERALA AND NAMBU DRIS

BY MR. A. K. T. K. M. NARAYANAN NAMBU DRIPAD.

HISTORICAL and other authentic records on the subjects reveal that until 112 B.C., Kerala as it then was forming that tract of land lying to the West of the Western Ghats with the sea as its natural boundary on the West and extending from Kasargode in the North to Cape Comorin in the South, had a constitutional form of its own. Changes in the government began with the advent of the Perumal Kings of the Chola Dynasty, who in course of time began to gain complete sway over the land. The Nambudris in those ancient days had an uppermost hand in all the administrative matters of the country prior to the Chola Dynasty's incursions. In all governmental affairs of the country, their position and status was almost on a footing of equality with the Perumals and formed a close resemblance to that of the Lords and the British Parliament.

The books also bear testimony to the fact that the Nambudris of those days were a very civilised community with a high degree of moral rectitude and truth ingrained in them. But, from the beginning of the 4th century A.D., their civilisation and moral attainments began to suffer a set-back. Land in those times belonged to the Nambudris exclusively and their status as Landlords was very similar to the Feudal system of Russia. As to be seen in the "People of All Nations" (pp. 1714 and 2715):—

The Nambudri Brahmin is the recognised lord of creation. For his lighter complexion shows him in most cases to be the lineal descendant of the Aryan immigrant who subdued the darker aboriginal races and nowhere else in India does any Brahmin swagger along the road with quite such a sense of superiority. Has it not been said of him that his person is 'holy', his directions 'commands', his movements a 'procession', his meal is 'nectar'—the holiest of human beings and the representative of God on earth?

Even today, there are in Kerala several Nambudri families which could be traced back to such remote periods. But, at present, there exist only a few fortunate "Manas" or "Illams" (Families of Nambudris) which continue to enjoy certain prerogatives, privileges, concessions and other rights which their more fortunate ancestors once enjoyed in full glory. Thekkiniyedath Kirangat Mana is one of such outstanding Manas of great repute. This distinguished Nambudri Family owns extensive landed properties in the countries ruled by the Zamorin and the Rajahs of Cochin and the honours and privileges enjoyed by this family are ascribable to the fact that their ancestors had immense power and had exercised a dominant hand in the reins of the government of the rulers of the land as it existed then. This Thekkiniyedath Kirangat Mana is still enjoying certain rights and privileges at the "Ariyittu Vazhcha" of the Zamorin (i.e., when the Zamorin succeeds to the *Gadi*). Likewise, there exists a special and marked relation with the Cochin Rajahs also. There are several anecdotes current to confirm this and one of such runs as follows:—

About the middle of the 18th century, while the Zamorin Rajah was making various attempts to capture Cochin, a battalion of the Zamorin's army surrounded the Fort of Trichur where the Yuvarajah of Cochin and his Court Dignitaries had taken refuge. When the Thekkiniyedath Kirangat Nambudripad heard of the predicament of the Yuvarajah, the Nambudripad with two or three other Nambudris went to the Fort on the pretext of performing certain religious rites within the Fort, and having obtained permission from the Zamorin's army, entered the Fort. In those olden days Brahmins were venerated and even adored. The Nambudripad suggested to the Yuvarajah to dress himself as the Nambudripad and walk through the gate in the company of the other Nambudris in the guise of the Nambudripad leaving the Fort after the completion of the rites. The ruse proved a capital success and when the Zamorin's army later entered the Fort and searched for the Yuvarajah, they found only the Nambudripad and the Rajah had flown to their utter discomfiture.

year ago, we would not now be faced with a dead-lock perilous to the best interests of India and England alike. But Britain never does the right thing at the right time, and the result is muddling and vexation.

London Correspondents point to the paradox of the British Press praising the valuable aid rendered by the Indian soldiers at Sidi Bassani while Indian leaders are being simultaneously imprisoned in India. As Mr. Vernon Bartlett has pointed out in the *News Chronicle*, the failure to win Indian support would be one of the greatest disasters imaginable. "I know that there are minorities," continues Mr. Bartlett,

and I sympathize with them, for, I am almost in a minority myself. And there are the Princes, but I do not much care about them, because they have had security under British protection and few of them have devoted any time to the happiness of their subjects. But the majorities too have their rights and when I hear officials emphasising the hardships of the minorities in India, I cannot but remember how Hitler did the same about German minorities in Sudetenland and Poland.

"The Fatal Phrase"

While Mr. Bartlett takes Mr. Amery to task, the *Manchester Guardian* (which among the British papers usually takes an intelligent and more or less dispassionate view of things Indian) criticises the Viceroy for asserting that Government has done everything in its power. "This fatal phrase" should never be used by any one responsible for the good of a nation," says the *Guardian*,

for history shows how often a Government, after protesting that it has done everything in its power, finds it possible to do something more.

There may be some officials in India, says the *Guardian*, who find that Indian divisions are a useful excuse for doing nothing,

but there is no wisdom or courage in inaction. Either the Viceroy should renew his efforts to bring India together through her leaders or others should go out from this country to attempt it. As a people, we must refuse steadily to admit that we have done everything in our power for India.

Government and Motor Industry

"The Government have been giving different reasons at different times for declining help," says Sir M. Visvesvarayya in a statement criticising the Government *communiqué*, explaining their difficulties in respect of automobile industries. The essential features of the scheme sponsored by the promoters have been made available to the public in two pamphlets, written with the authority and knowledge of one so experienced as Sir M. Visvesvarayya. Alike the practicability of the scheme and its immediate bearing on war effort have been clearly set forth. And yet months and years have been allowed to lapse without a sign of encouragement from the Government. The soundness of the scheme has not been challenged. Why cannot the Government in India do what is so common in Canada and other countries where the industry has thrived? India has thirty times the population of Canada, and we are "puzzled to find ourselves involved," says Sir Visvesvarayya "in an endless series of alleged difficulties in our endeavour to put through the first automobile factory projected in the country". And what time could be more propitious for this new industry than now when war-demands make it doubly invaluable?

The Finance Member to the Government of India is reported to have said that 5,000 mechanical trucks were purchased last year and that before the end of this year the purchases will go up to 60,000 vehicles. The cost of these vehicles will probably be of the order of Rs. 24 crores. The promoters have now asked for an order for mechanical vehicles likely to be needed for replacement purposes for the next three years at the rate of about 6,000 trucks per year.

It is not understood why a small portion of the order could not have been given to us. It is hoped that orders for the replacements at least will not be denied to the Indian Company. If we cannot share the food placed on the table, we will be content with the crumbs that fall from it.

Surely, this is a case for prompt and immediate attention from the Government, which has always been vociferous in its solicitude for indigenous enterprise.

Sir Sultan Ahmed's Wise Counsel

Sir Sultan Ahmed could hardly have chosen a more appropriate time nor a more fitting audience for his admirable discourse, than the convocation of the Muslim University. His striking appeal for Hindu-Muslim unity on the basis of mutual adjustment is in refreshing contrast to the suicidal cult of Pakistan of which we hear so much in certain quarters. Deprecating the present tendency to exaggerate whatever cultural differences there may be between the two communities, Sir Sultan aptly pointed out how the welfare of the two religions is consistent with a "United National evolution", for racially and politically we are all Indians.

There is no gainsaying the fact that racially and politically we are all Indians, we breathe in the same atmosphere and till the same land. We are inheritors of the same old proud civilisation and whatever we may privately think and aspire after, our destinies are linked together. Differences that there are I have already admitted but our foundations of life are the same. Our political and social salvation can only lie in both Hindus and Muslims pooling their energies together for the reconstruction of a better India. However much you try there is no other road to salvation. Any other road will lead India to chaos, anarchy, bloodshed and perpetual subjection.

From a practical view-point too, even taking for granted the pessimistic view of the irreconcilable difference between Muslim and Hindu cultures, there can be no other means of a better future for India. No amount of wishful thinking will perform the miracle of the total disappearance of millions of Muslims or Hindus from our landscape. For better or for worse "till death do us part"—that is our destiny. Even in such a situation the only sane and graceful thing is to arrive at some sort of working compromise, at any rate till the duration of the War. A compromise always indicates mutual generosity, a whole series of give and take, concessions and sacrifices. The peace and concord that a compromise like that begets is a sufficient reward for all self-denials. And I conjure you earnestly, all young men, both Hindus and Muslims, to remember this hard, sane and incontrovertible fact when you enter a larger sphere of life. You must try to promote mutual understanding, mutual trust and mutual love and

to remember your mutual obligations. Otherwise the example of Europe to-day is before you. What racial arrogance and racial intolerance can do is being vividly enacted before your eyes. Do not take up a defeatist attitude. With a broad-minded approach our domestic differences can be and must be solved.

These are wise words and timely. It is up to the young Muslims of the Aligarh University to prove that "a strong and vigorous nationhood is compatible with cultural diversity and freedom".

Sir Purushotamdas' Plea

In the view of the Indian commercial community, the Congress would not have refused the offer of an enlarged Executive Council if it had been a Cabinet responsible to the Legislative Assembly, observed Sir Purushotamdas Thakurdas in his presidential address at the 19th annual general meeting of the East India Cotton Association in Bombay.

Sir Purushotamdas said:

It is generally felt that the offer made by the British Government was unacceptable in the sense of not meeting what India wanted, and the Congress feel that they must mark their disapproval by a gesture of the treatment of India by the British Government, however much some of us may dislike such gestures which put some of the most self-sacrificing men of the country behind prison-bars at this juncture.

The Government should realise that the responsibility for the state of affairs that prevails at present is theirs, and it would be a travesty of truth to say that India wants any of the enemy countries fighting Great Britain today to have any chance of victory. Will the British Government still not see that they are creating trouble here avoidably and then they use their energies required in other directions to deal with this trouble? The commercial community throughout the length and breadth of India wonder what the British Government have in their mind to treat India in this manner at this critical juncture and despite their utterances and promises in the past.

Sir Purushotamdas wound up with a plea for a better treatment of political prisoners:

Until better understanding is brought about in this connection, the minimum that the Government can do is to see that those who court arrest and imprisonment in this matter are treated in a manner which will not leave any trace of bitterness in their minds when a better atmosphere prevails.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

British Cabinet Changes

THE appointment of Viscount Halifax as the British Ambassador to the United States in succession to Lord Lothian has been welcomed in both countries as an appropriate choice. His experience at the Foreign Office and his great reputation as an elder statesman will prove of especial value at this time in America.

The appointment has been followed by important changes.

Mr. Anthony Eden, Secretary for War, returns to the post of Foreign Secretary, which he resigned in 1938, because of Britain's policy towards Italy and becomes a member of the War Cabinet.

Viscount Cranborne, present Dominions Secretary, and Mr. Eden's old colleague, who resigned with him the office of Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, receives a Barony and becomes chief Foreign Office spokesman in the House of Lords.

Captain David Margesson, Government Chief Whip, is appointed War Minister in place of Mr. Eden.

The Late Lord Lothian

Lord Lothian's death has deeply shocked Britain, especially as it was totally unexpected and came while the Ambassador was so much in the public eye as a spokesman for the British cause in a country where its advocacy is just now of vital importance to the whole Allied cause. To us in India, his death recalls to the mind his past associations with India at the Round Table Conference as Under-Secretary of State and Chairman of the Franchise Committee.

It is said that despite his manifold preoccupations, Lord Lothian watched the India question closely and was known to be greatly concerned over the recent developments.

The Collapse of Italy

Italian forces have been beaten on all fronts, in Egypt, Libya and Albania. The following points are significant :—

1. Within 56 hours of the commencement of the operations by the British Forces in Egypt, helped by the Free French Forces, Sidi Barrani has been captured. Sidi Barrani, it will be remembered, is the base about 60 miles east of the Libyan-Egyptian frontier from which Marshal Graziani hoped by sending his forces in all directions to subjugate Egypt and capture the Suez Canal. The British forces have been helped by the Royal Air Force and the British Navy, and a wedge has now been driven by British penetration between Sollen and Sidi Barrani threatening to cut off Italian supply bases.

2. The Free French forces in Chad are harrying the Italians in Southern Libya.

3. The Royal Air Force is busy over foreign bases in Italy and in Albania and worrying the retreating troops in Albania.

4. The Greeks are thrusting deeply into Albania at numerous points. After the fall of Argyrocastro and Santi Quaranta, the whole of Southern Albania is in Greek hands. The Italians are now trying to hold the Elbasan-Berat-Valona line, taking up positions in the Tomoro Mountains. But the Greeks are relentlessly pursuing them. The oil supplies in Albania from which Italy is getting more than one half of its normal requirements, is now being threatened by the Greeks.

5. Italy now finds itself without many of the raw materials mainly owing to the effectiveness of the British blockade.

6. She is now cut off from the Dodecanese Islands and from Northern Africa.

Apart from the valour the Greeks and the fine exploits of the R. A. F., much may be attributed to the collapse of the Italian morale. It is clear the heart of the Roman soldier is not in this war into which he has been pushed against his will by the Duce and his ambitious colleagues.

President Roosevelt's Call to America

Addressing the American nation, President Roosevelt declared :

Some Americans believe that wars in Europe and Asia do not concern us ; but it vitally concerns us that European and Asiatic war-makers should not gain control of the oceans leading to this hemisphere.

Referring to the Monroe Doctrine, the President declared that as between the United States and Britain, there has been



PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

a feeling of neighbourliness and that they could settle any disputes peacefully.

Does any one seriously believe that we need fear an attack while Free Britain remains our most powerful neighbour in the Atlantic? But does any one seriously believe we could rest easy if the Axis Powers were our neighbours there?

"If Britain goes down," declared the President,

the Axis will control Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and the High Seas, and it is not an exaggeration

to say that all of us in America will be living at the point of a gun loaded with explosive bullets, economic as well as military. We should enter a new terrible era in which the world (including the Americas) would be run by threats of brute force. To survive in such a world, we should have to convert ourselves permanently into a militaristic power on the basis of war economy. Frankly and definitely, there is danger ahead. We well know that we cannot escape it by crawling into bed and pulling covers over our heads.

The fate of nations who despite non-aggression pacts have been overrun and thrown into a modern form of slavery, tells us what it means to live at the point of the Nazi gun. The Nazis justified such acts by pious frauds like occupying a country to restore order or protect it against aggression. Would they hesitate to say, to any South-American country : 'We are occupying you to protect you from aggression by the United States'?

Belgium is to-day being used as an invasion base against Britain which is fighting for her life. Any South American country in Nazi hands would constitute a jumping-off place for a German attack on any of the other republics in this hemisphere.

Herr Hitler and Vichy Government

According to French quarters in London, Marshal Petain has firmly rejected the German demand for the surrender of the French Fleet, declaring that such a demand infringes the terms of the "honourable Armistice" granted to France.

It is believed that the message which Admiral Jean Darlan, Vichy's Minister of the Navy, has taken to Paris on Christmas day contained this refusal. Hitler's reaction to this spirited rejection is not yet known.

A strong appeal to French leaders to renew the fight on Britain's side was made by Gen. de Gaulle, Leader of Free Frenchmen, in a broadcast.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

— 10 —

- Dec. 1. Mrs. Naidu and Bhujabhai Desai are arrested in Bombay.
- Dec. 2. Air battle over Indo-China-Thailand frontier.
—Anglo-Spanish financial agreement is signed.
- Dec. 3. Sri Bulusu Sambamurti in Madras and K. M. Munshi and Nurie in Bombay are arrested and sentenced.
- Dec. 5. Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose who was arrested on July 2, is released.
- Dec. 6. Marshal Badoglio, Chief of the General Staff of Italian Armed forces, is removed.
—The U. P. Government demands security from *National Herald*.
- Dec. 7. Sir Maurice Gwyer is re-appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University.
—President Roosevelt pledges U. S. aid to Greece.
- Dec. 8. Mr. Kanungo, former Minister of Orissa, is arrested under Defence of India Rules.
- Dec. 9. Dr. P. Subbaroyan and Mrs. Subbaroyan are arrested.
—Britain agrees in principle to lend ten million pounds to China.
- Dec. 10. Herr Hitler attacks Britain in a long speech to German Arms Workers.
—British Drive in Western Desert.
—Mrs. Sarojini Naidu is released from Yerrowada Jail for reasons of health.
- Dec. 11. The Greeks capture Siddi Barrani with a large number of prisoners.
- Dec. 12. Lord Lothian, British Ambassador in Washington, dies of blood poisoning.
- Dec. 13. Rt. Hon. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru issues a statement *re* settling the political problem.
—Hindu Gymkhana decides not to participate in the Pentangular Cricket Tournament.
- Dec. 14. Duke of Windsor meets President Roosevelt.
- Dec. 15. M. Laval is dismissed by Marshal Petain.
- Dec. 15. Britain requests financial help from United States.
- Dec. 16. H. E. Viceroy addressing the Associated Chambers of Commerce at Calcutta reiterates H. M. Government's objective *viz.*, Dominion Status for India.
- Dec. 17. Bengal Security Prisoners give up hunger-strike.
- Dec. 18. Sardar Sampuran Singh is expelled from the Party by the Congress President.
- Dec. 19. The Portuguese Government bans Rt. Hon'ble Jayakar's entry into Goa.
- Dec. 20. 50,000 German troops arrive in Italy.
- Dec. 21. Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan leaves for Cairo to visit Indian troops.
- Dec. 22. Nazis threaten America *re* sale of ships to Britain by United States.
- Dec. 23. H. H. The Maharaja of Travancore opens the fourteenth Music Conference at Madras.
- Dec. 24. Lord Halifax is appointed British Ambassador to U. S. A.
—Mr. Anthony Eden becomes Foreign Secretary.
- Dec. 25. H. M. The King broadcasts message to the Empire.
—Fighting in Thailand-Indo-China frontier.
- Dec. 26. Movement of German troops through Hungary is reported.
- Dec. 27. The 22nd Liberal Federation meets at Calcutta.
—Greek troops capture Lin.
- Dec. 28. German ultimatum to Vichy.
—Sir Fleetwood Wilson is dead.
- Dec. 29. Vichy's firm answer to Hitler: no surrender of French navy.
- Dec. 30. President Roosevelt broadcasts a vigorous appeal to the American nation to defy the dictators.
- Dec. 31. Luftwaffe's attempts on Guildhall and the churches in London.
—28 well-known British women appeal for a new approach to Indian situation.

The WORLD of BOOKS

FINANCE UNDER PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY,
By C. N. Vakil and M. H. Patel.
Longmans Green & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.
Rs. 4.

This is a brief and largely descriptive study of Provincial Finance under the Government of India Act of 1935. The authors introduce their subject by a rather scrappy summary of its development in the pre-autonomy days, which is followed by a fairly long chapter on State and Economic Life in India. To the reviewer at least this chapter appears to be an unhappy interpolation. It does not concern itself with the fundamentals of Finance, some enlightenment on which the lay reader would have been grateful for. On the contrary, he is re-told the familiar story of the shortcomings of governments in India, their sins of commission and still more of omission. The learned authors regard the Government of India prior to 1920 as merely a Police State, though it seems to have done a lot in the way of building railways, digging canals, providing against famines, etc.—activities which hardly square with our conception of the Police State.

However, this lapse into polemics is made up in the chapters that follow, in which the authors entertain the reader with neat summaries of the powers, opportunities, difficulties and achievements of provincial governments. Here and there are interesting suggestions, *e.g.*, progression of probate duties, introduction of income-tax on agricultural incomes in combination with a minimum flat rate

land revenue, sales taxes, general and particular, etc. The fastidious reader, however, wishes that the authors had worked out the possibilities of some of these proposed measures and stated, at least in terms of their order of magnitude, the contributions they can make to the provincial fisc.

The authors seem to have small love for the Federal Government which, in their opinion, has been pampered at the expense of the provinces. But in spite of their limited opportunities, the provinces do not seem to have done so badly during the very short regime of autonomy they had. For instance, taken together, they increased their expenditure on social services by 23 per cent.—not a mean achievement for any popular government—while the share of the security services actually fell. On a number of occasions the authors posit a choice between security the special concern of the Centre and prosperity the particular charge of the provinces and complain that the New Constitution has sacrificed the one to the other. One would have thought that in these days of international insecurity, the two functions are more complementary than ever and that the task of the student of public finance is to discover ways by which they can promote each other. Perhaps the origin of the authors' animus against the Centre is to be found in its non-popular character. But surely one need not forget the fundamentals of the problem, because of the deficiencies of the contemporary arrangement,

THE REAL AND THE NEGATIVE. By B. K. Mallik. George Allen & Co. 21 sh.

The author of the volume under review has made an elaborate study of the import and validity of the *Negative* in the light of an interpretation of the law of contradiction. The position of the *Negative* was not examined by the traditional philosophers to the extent Mr. Mallik would have liked them to do. Traditional philosophy merely asserted that the positive and the negative could not co-exist. The presence of one always meant the non-existence of the other. But where tradition was confronted with the co-existence of the positive and negative, they explained that the law of contradiction referred only to the absolute positive and the absolute negative. They also held that the relatively negative could co-exist with the positive. Mr. Mallik has given us a re-interpretation of the law of contradiction.

On the epistemological side, Mr. Mallik's contribution is the fresh and acute analysis of the positive and the negative on the basis of a new interpretation of the laws of thought.

The second part of the thesis is a plea for the defence of individuality. Individuality is the core of reality. Man throughout the history of civilisation has either surrendered to the Demon as the governor of the universe out of his sense of helplessness, or to an omnipotent power for protection and help. According to Mr. Mallik, both the attitudes are neither accurate nor efficient enough to serve men. So he exhorts men not to mistake frustration and failure as the signs of the innate deficiency of human personality. The truth is that man is literally divine and nothing less.

REVISION OF DEMOCRACY. By Dr. Appadorai, M.A., Ph.D. Published by Oxford University Press. As. 12.

The booklet under review is the substance of the two extension lectures delivered at the University of Mysore. Democracy is the least objectionable form of government. It is not democracy that has failed but the misapplication of the democratic principles that has led to its decay. The author, expatiating on Mill's concept of liberty and principles of representative government, enumerates the inestimable blessings that political liberty has bestowed on the British people in the last few decades and the progressive improvement in the position of the working classes. The inequalities of wealth are being gradually ironed out by a steeply graded income-tax and death duties.

In the second half of the book, the author puts forward constructive suggestions for the reform of democratic institutions. He advocates a two party system based on broad difference of principles and healthy opposition. He is not enamoured of the devices of direct democracies like initiative and referendum which are superfluous in a proper representative government.

THE POET AND GOD'S WORD. By James Arthur. Published by the Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, Madras. As. 6.

An interesting, if ingenious, attempt to prove by number-play, clock cypher or time count, that Francis Bacon took a hand in the final revision of the authorised version (1611) of the Bible, a revision, however, restricted entirely to emendations of a purely literary character so as to enhance its "unity of strength, rhythm and melody",

IRANIAN AND INDIAN ANALOGUES OF THE LEGEND OF THE HOLY GRAIL. By Sir J. C. Coyajee. Taraporewalla and Sons. Re. 1-8.

The volume under review formed the subject-matter of one of the six lectures delivered by Sir Coyajee to the Cama Oriental Institute in the capacity of a Research Fellow of the Government. The central point stressed by the author is that the Aryan legends on the subject of the Holy Grail or Royal glory have imparted a striking similarity to the Iranian tradition about the Royal glory.

The legend of the *Holy Grail* has been a topic attracting the scholars of the West. Various authorities like Miss Weston, Dr. Nitze and Mr. R. S. Loomis explain the legend of 'Holy Grail' by resorting to the mysteries of Adonis Eleusis and Samothrace as throwing light on the origins of the legend.

INSURANCE FINANCE. By B. N. Agarwala. Kitab Mahal, Allahabad. Rs. 2-8.

This neat little book gives a clear account of the financial methods followed by insurance companies. A great and growing business, insurance companies play an important part in our financial world through their large investment of funds. Mr. Agarwala gives a satisfactory account of these investment methods and gives wise hints regarding them. He is for a broader outlook in regard to investment; he would even recommend a diversion of a portion of his funds to relief of agricultural indebtedness and to financing of cottage industries. This is a bold recommendation indeed, and while it would greatly commend itself to persons like the present writer interested in the provision of greater funds in agricultural finance, the hard-grained bankers and other businessmen will look askance at it.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—:O:—

THE CASE AGAINST PACIFISM. By John Lewis. George Allen & Unwin, London.

THE APOSTLE OF CHARITY. By Theodore Maynard. George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London.

THE MADRAS GENERAL SALES TAX ACT: A study By Dr. B. V. Narayanaswamy Naidu and S. Thiruvengadathan. Foreword by Sir K. V. Reddi Naidu, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar.

INDIA'S PROBLEM OF HER FUTURE CONSTITUTION. With a Preface by M. A. Jinnah, President, All-India Muslim League. Published by M. H. Saiyed, Mount Pleasant, Malabar Hill, Bombay.

AN OUTLINE OF THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF ANDHRA DESA. By Dr. C. Mahadevan, M.A., D.Sc., Andhra University Series, Ananda Press, Madras.

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, LONDON, 1938-39. Office of the High Commissioner for India, London.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE SEA-BORNE TRADE OF BRITISH INDIA with the British Empire and foreign countries for the fiscal year ending 31st March 1939. Vol. I. Manager of Publications, Delhi.

THE Viceroy AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA. By A. B. Rudra, Ph.D. Oxford University Press, Madras.

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD. Vol. III. By Maurice B. Reckith, George Allen & Unwin, London.

SOUTHERN IDYLLS. By S. Uma Maheshwar. The B. V. Book Depot and Printing Works, Trivandrum.

THE HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN SOUTH INDIA. By K. S. Venkataraman, Ph.D. Bulletin of the Department of Indian Economics No. 4, University of Madras.

KARMANISM. By Swami Krishnanand. The Vidya Mandir Ltd., Connaught Circus, New Delhi.

THE VINANA DRIKHA. By Padmapadacarya. Edited by Umesha Mishra, M.A., D.Litt. Senate House, Allahabad.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF RECENT LAC RESEARCH. Edited by H. K. Sen, Indian Lac Research Institute, Ranchi.

INDIAN STATES

Hyderabad

CONTEMPT OF COURT'S BILL

With a view to empower the Hyderabad High Court to deal with Contempt of Courts to the State, the Nizam's Government have drafted a Contempt of Courts Bill, which will be introduced in the Legislative Council shortly.

According to the Bill, the High Court can award punishment to a person who commits contempt of High Court and Courts subordinate to it. But before any proceedings are instituted against such person or persons, he or they would be asked to show cause why proceedings should not be instituted by a Bench of three Judges of the High Court.

When a person is found guilty, he will be awarded imprisonment up to 6 months or a fine of Rs. 2,000 or both. The imprisonment would be simple. On the whole, the Bill is on the lines of British Indian High Courts Contempt Act.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS

It is understood that the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation is launching its Four-year Plan for civic improvements out of the loan of Rs. 40 lakhs sanctioned by the Government. The amount will be utilised in laying dust-proof roads, constructing new drainage, providing quarters for the poorer section of the Corporation staff, constructing new markets, etc.

Nawab Mahdi Nawaz Jung Bahadur, Commissioner, who has already effected several changes in the Corporation so that work may be carried on more vigorously, is taking keen interest in improving the sanitary conditions of the City and providing various amenities.

Mysore

EDUCATION IN THE STATE

The latest report of the Mysore University discloses very many interesting details which bear ample testimony to the progressive outlook of Mysore under its benevolent and enlightened rule.

In 1980-40, the number of students continued to increase. As against 8,417 in 1938-39, the number was 4,289, including those studying in the School of Engineering. Thus there was a real increase of more than 500. This increase has been kept up by the admissions made to the classes of 1940-41, the total strength being 4,787 including 807 in the School of Engineering and 114 in the Diploma Course for Commerce.

Women's education made considerable progress during the year and the Maharani's College at Bangalore now requires additional accommodation and staff on account of increasing numbers. The number of women students in 1939-40 was 822 and the number in 1940-41 is 409.

SILK INDUSTRY

Mysore is reputedly the largest producer of silk in India. The progress achieved by Mysore in recent years should serve as a fine example to the rest of India. There were nearly 8,000 hand-looms engaged in the silk industry, mainly localised in half a dozen centres, of which Bangalore and Dodballapur were the chief. Till 1938, there were no power-looms at all in the cottages of weavers in these areas. The constant efforts of the Department of Industries, and the liberal attitude of the Government and the encouragement meted out to the weaver community, have been mainly responsible for the introduction of power-looms for silk weaving.

Travancore

ROAD TRANSPORT IN TRAVANCORE

The Administration Report of the Transport Department of Travancore State for the year 1114 M. E. (1938-39) states that the Department has under contemplation a daily goods lorry service from Cape Comorin up to Alwaye, connecting the northern and southern ends of the State and this will be started as soon as certain bridges and culverts on the M. C. Road, which are now in an unsafe condition, are rebuilt or repaired as the case may be. With the introduction of this service, together with the extension of passenger service now in contemplation, the various centres of industrial and commercial importance in the State will be linked together, and the public will be provided with a unique facility in the matter of road transport of goods.

The department was assiduous in providing all amenities for passengers. Many of the buses are equipped with saloon bodies to provide the maximum comfort. A high standard of tidiness is maintained in the vehicles and the seats are regularly sprayed with insecticides. Waiting-rooms are provided at all principal stations.

Indore

HOLKAR STATE BUDGET

His Highness the Maharaja Holkar has sanctioned the Budget Estimates of the Holkar State for the financial-year 1940-41, beginning from October. The Budget Estimates provide for an anticipated revenue of Rs. 1,21,81,100 and an expenditure of Rs. 1,17,85,100 chargeable to Revenue, showing an anticipated surplus of Rs. 8,46,000.

The finances of the State were subjected in 1939 to a comprehensive examination

and the result of it is traceable in the Budgets for 1939-40 and for 1940-41. In sanctioning the Budget Estimates for 1940-41, His Highness has emphasised that the policy of his Government should be to aim at universal compulsory education throughout the State at as early a date as possible and the extension of medical aid to all rural areas, especially the remote and interior parts of the State. The Education and the Medical Departments thus receive substantial additional appropriations during the year.

A revised financial policy has accordingly been laid down by His Highness, which is to be followed for the next five years beginning from 1940-41.

Cochin

TREASURY WORK FOR BANK

It is understood that the financial transactions of the Government of Cochin carried on at present in the State Treasury will be transferred to the Central Bank of India as from the 1st February 1941. The Accounts Department of the Treasury, however, will be retained by the Government while the cash receipts and payments section will be controlled by the Bank. The daily cash balance of the Treasury amounting nearly to Rs. 8 lakhs will be in the custody of the Bank, for which they will pay no interest to the Government as the funds will form no deposit and will be held as liquid resources required for meeting the day-to-day expenses of the Government that may become necessary.

For carrying on the transactions of the Government, the Bank will receive no commission, but it will be given an amount equivalent to the salary now paid by the Government to the officers in charge of the monetary transactions of the Treasury.

Baroda

BARODA'S RAILWAY PROGRAMME

The Baroda State, which claims to have the largest railway mileage in India for its size and population, is constructing more feeder railroads. One hundred and fourteen roads covering a length of 289 miles have already been completed.

To extend their programme further, the Baroda Government has sanctioned the construction of thirteen village and feeder roads in the Savili Taluka of the Baroda district at a cost of Rs. 1,46,250. The Government, as a special case, pay all the compensation for lands required for road purposes and contribute one-third of the cost, two-thirds of the remaining cost to be borne by the Baroda District Local Board.

NEW NAIB DEWAN

His Highness the Maharaja Sahib has been pleased to appoint Mr. Motilal C. Desai, an elected member of the Dhara Sabha, as Naib Dewan in charge of the Legal Section.

Kashmir

KASHMIR ADMINISTRATION

The total expenditure on the Meteorological Department during the year 1994-95 amounted to Rs. 10,094. The Department maintained eight observatories and the question of opening two new observatories was under consideration. The activities of the Department during the year were largely directed towards schemes for Services along the proposed Lahore-Jammu-Srinagar air route.

NEW COMMERCE MEMBER

His Highness the Maharaja has appointed Khan Bahadur Jafar Ali Khan, M.B.E., Additional Commissioner, Allahabad, as Commerce and Development Minister, Kashmir, *vice* Sir Abdus Samad Khan, retiring this month.

General

SATYAGRAHA IN STATES

Anti-war *satyagraha* is not to be resorted to in the States but the people of the States, if they are strong enough, can offer *satyagraha* on their own responsibility in order to have local issues and grievance redressed, said Mr. Gandhi when questioned by a deputation of workers from Mewar and some Rajputana and Himalayan States as to whether *satyagraha* in the States had also been suspended.

To another question, Mr. Gandhi replied that lists of Praja Mandal workers, who were also Congress Committee office-bearers, should be sent only through the Praja Mandal President, and workers could join in *satyagraha* if necessary after arranging for Praja Mandal work.

When asked whether *satyagraha* could be offered in British Cantonments, Mr. Gandhi said: "It can be, but I do not advise it."

Questioned as to whether *satyagraha* could be offered in railway trains, Mr. Gandhi replied: "No. This will be of a violent sort. My scheme is to offer *satyagraha* in villages while walking. The shouting of slogans in trains would disturb other passengers and it would be ungentlemanly to do so."

Gwalior

SCINDIA SCHOOL

No less than four royal visitors spent nearly two hours at the Scindia School, Gwalior, on Sunday morning, December 8th. Her Highness the Maharani Setu Parvathi Bai of Travancore, with His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore and His Highness the Maharaja of Bharatpur visited the school in the company of their host, His Highness the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

Ceylon

CEYLON NATIONAL CONGRESS

More than usual interest attaches to the 21st Session of the Ceylon National Congress which met at Misigama on December 21, as it was expected to clarify the position following the failure of the Indo-Ceylon talks.

Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Minister of Agriculture, one of the delegates to the recent delegation to India, referred in his welcome address to the difference between their proposals and those of the Government of India.

We proposed that franchise should be given to all Indians now in Ceylon who have permanently settled down here and full rights of citizenship should be given, only to second generation of such Indians. Their proposal is that full rights of citizenship, with very minor restrictions, should be given to all Indians who lived for five years in Ceylon and have their families here.

The speaker commented:

Their proposals would practically amount to our having to confer full rights of citizenship on entire 900,000 Indians now in Ceylon irrespective of the fact that their real home is India and not Ceylon. We found it impossible to agree to these proposals and so the Conference had to end in an unsatisfactory manner. We suggested that the proposed Indo-Ceylon trade talks be taken up but representatives of Government of India said as no mutual goodwill had been established, they were not prepared to discuss the questions of trade between the two countries. He said although they had failed in the immediate purpose of their visit to India, it had served a very useful purpose. It has shown us clearly how we stand in relation to the present Government of India. It has also shown us that when we are faced with problems and dangers, it is useless our expecting others to help us to solve those problems.

Mr. Senanayake's speech thus giving details of proposals made by the Ceylon and Indian Governments at the recent talks in Delhi has naturally caused considerable surprise in important political and official circles in India. It was expected that no publicity would be given to such proposals until the Ceylon

Government had received and considered the report of its delegates. This premature publicity is certainly embarrassing as the speech makes it clear that the Ceylon delegates stuck to their proposals and were unwilling to come anywhere near a consideration of who could be considered as having an "abiding interest in Ceylon".

The President Mr. E. A. P. Vijeyeratne's address was conceived in a more optimistic vein. He visualised a future confederation of India, Burma and Ceylon, all the three forming independent units of one great self-governing dominion.

Remarking that quite apart from cultural ties that bind India and Ceylon, the question of political union has now advanced to a stage of practical problem, the President said that

a free India, whether she remains within the Commonwealth of British Empire or outside, will find in Ceylon a most valuable ally by reason of the safety of Ceylon's harbours. For Ceylon herself, it was not too far-fetched to visualise the future of an independent existence.

Stating that he included Burma advisedly in visualising the confederation of India, Burma and Ceylon in view of 300 years' warm and cordial relations and ties of common religion between Burma and Ceylon, Mr. Vijeyeratne declared that in the event of such an alliance, Ceylon too could gain by India's strength. Friendship between India and Ceylon, better understanding and sympathy were necessary for the future of both, perhaps more necessary for Ceylon than for India.

The Congress adopted a resolution sympathising with India's struggle for freedom:

This session expresses its sympathy with the people of India in their struggle for freedom; and expresses its disapproval of the punishments imposed on India's sons and daughters, who are participating in a movement of great moral significance to the whole world based as it is on the principle of non-violence.

The Congress also passed a resolution on Ceylon's freedom, considering it imperative that decisive steps should be taken to secure immediately for Ceylon such political status as would ensure for the people of the country the unfettered right to determine their domestic and foreign policies and frame their own constitution,

South Africa

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR S. A

The following messages were exchanged between the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa and H. E. the Viceroy on the occasion of the change in the status of the Agent-General for India in the Union of South Africa to that of High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa :

On behalf of the Government and people of the Union of South Africa, I wish to convey to Your Excellency and the Government and people of India our cordial congratulations on raising of the status of Indian Agent-General in the Union of South Africa to that of High Commissioner for India. In thus placing the status of the Indian representative on the same basis as that of the newly appointed representative of the Dominion of Canada in the Union, the Union Government desire not only to emphasise the importance of the post in itself, but also and more especially, to express to the people of India their sympathetic interest in their progress towards the attainment of free and equal partnership in the British Commonwealth of Nations. They venture also to express their confidence that India's conspicuous loyalty and outstanding service in her present war effort will hasten the achievement of that status.

Message from H. E. the Viceroy to General Smuts, dated December 22, 1940 :

I am very grateful for your message of congratulation on the change in status of our Agent-General. The Government and the people of India share your view of the importance of the step and will warmly appreciate the sincere desire of the Union Government to greet India as an equal partner in the Commonwealth. They will particularly welcome your reference to India's war effort, which is being daily intensified. They have watched with admiration the contribution which South Africa, under your inspiring leadership, is making to the effort of the Commonwealth to defeat the challenge to individual liberty and free institutions.

The Government of India have selected Mr. Ram Chandra, I.C.S., for appointment as High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa, when Sir B. Rama Rau, I.C.S., vacates the post next May.

Malaya

INDIANS IN MALAYA

Discussing the various aspects of the condition of Indians in Malaya and the Government of India's ban on the emigration of unskilled labourers to that country, Mr. R. Gopala Aiyar of the Labour Department, Kuala Lumpur, in an interview with the *United Press*, said :

This ban is a real hardship on Indians. Malaya no doubt offers a splendid field for employment of Indians. Though the ban has been in existence for the past two years, it has not prevented several thousands proceeding to Malaya paying their own passages and it has never affected the wages of Indians on the other side. When countries like Burma and Ceylon are imposing restrictions on Indians' entry into those countries, it is a pity India should be blind to her own advantage of finding an outlet for her surplus population by a self-denying ordinance. Nothing is more cruel than this to the general welfare of our people of all classes and it is the peoples' look-out here to find out how it affects them and act accordingly. What I am more concerned about is that the ban works to the greatest disadvantage of the returning emigrants to Malaya. There are several Indian labourers working on the Estates there who have practically settled in Malaya. When such people visit India to see their relations or perform marriages, or take a holiday trip after a long time and when they wish to return to Malaya, they find it difficult to come back under the ban. It is all right with clerks, doctors or merchants, but it is different with labourers who have made Malaya their home, who have small plots of land, a hut and a few live-stock, etc., there.

Those Indians in Malaya who have been responsible for suggesting this ban to the Government of India, and who still cry hoarse for its continuance, are not the class of people who know anything of the real existing conditions and facts and who are in touch with the labouring classes,

But the mercantile community and a few others who are in constant touch with the mother country are dead against this ban. In my personal opinion the sooner it is lifted the better it will be for Indians both in India and Malaya. Till such time it is completely removed, a permit like that issued to Chinese emigrants proceeding to China and willing to return to Malaya may be issued by the Government, so that Indians returning to Malaya may not be handicapped.

I consider that in this matter the Government of India and more particularly the Government of Madras should be far more interested than the Malayan Government.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



THE BATTLE OF LONDON

Reviewing* the situation created by the persistent enemy attacks on London, the Editor of the *Nineteenth Century and After* observes that "it is untrue that Londoners are unafraid, that they are not suffering, that they are cheerful".

After a few days of the horror that has come upon them, their faces are tragic—not the faces of those, perhaps, who arrive from the west and suburbs, although these, too, have suffered—but the faces of those who live in the East End and other congested districts and spend night after night in crowded shelter or in the Underground. Every morning their eyes show the lack of sleep more and more, and every evening the constant skyward glances, and the hypersensitiveness to sound, reveal the nervous tension and the dread of the night to come. The nights are indeed terrible with the malignant droning of the German bombers above, the glittering brilliance of the shell-bursts, the swishing, whining descent of the bombs, the earth-shaking roar of the explosions, the red glare of the fires that follow, the chattering rain of the jagged razor-edged shell-fragments, the reverberations (the one comfort on such nights) of the anti-aircraft guns, the houses disembowelled and smashed and split into the deserted streets, the dead, and the injured.

No one who has lived through these nights will be the same when they are over. And yet fervent as the yearning is that they may be over soon,

the resolve that they shall not be over until the foe has been broken is more fervent still (there are prayers for peace in all the churches, and rightly so, but the prayers must be for peace and victory, never for peace alone). Awful as the horror and the tragedy are, and unendurable, almost, the apprehension of what is still to come, there is a pride and a glory in being a Londoner in London now—in London, greatest city that is and ever was, worthy successor to ancient Athens and Rome, heart of the Empire, and last stronghold of freedom in Europe.

If the Germans ever give up the idea of invading England and making themselves masters of its capital, "they will do so because they have been defeated, because the heroes of the Royal Air Force denied them the command of the air, and because the men, women and children of London, although frightened, could not be daunted",

WAR AND ITS REMEDY

"The only remedy for war is to abolish commercial competition and replace it with international co-operation, establishing a 'World Co-operative Commonwealth of Free Peoples' in which no nation or person can be subjugated or exploited by any other but where all enjoy the same liberty and status in a new world under the dynamic power of which will be 'The Golden Rule' instead of the rule of gold which contests the present system of so-called civilization," thus observes Mr. Francis Bell writing in the *New History*.

This means the end of all imperialistic ambitions—but it also will mean that the peoples of every nation will have "more than enough and to spare", and peace and plenty" will reign.

It will mean the breaking down of the man-made walls of separation—Tariffs, Creeds, Frontiers, Nationalities, Class and Caste.

It will mean that the machine will become the servant of man, instead of as at present a monster that is working for his destruction. "It will mean that all that is being spent in men, wealth, and material for the mutual murder of mankind will be spent in construction purposes to improve the conditions of all.

It will mean the substitution of sanity for insanity. This can only be accomplished by a change in the ideology of the people, when success will not be determined or measured by the individual or national bank balance—such things should be entirely foreign in the new order—but in the happiness and improved conditions of the peoples of all countries.

For this condition to be permanent, says the writer, we must have the personal conviction of the common origin of all men in the Fatherhood of God—

Who or Which has been revealed to us as the Universal and Indwelling Spirit of Love and to harmonize with Which is the only hope for or of humanity. The only path to peace and the brotherhood of man.

This is not an impossible Utopia—it will materialize when mankind so desires and is prepared to abide by its conditions, the realization of the purpose of life, the goal of human progress.

FRENCHMEN DEFEATED FRANCE

George Peel, writing in the *Contemporary Review* for August, is strongly of opinion that France fell because the battle of France was a battle between Frenchmen. He goes on to say that during its life of seventy years up to 1940, the Third Republic may be credited with many splendid achievements.

But there was one vital thing which it could not or, at any rate, did not secure. It never had the loyal support of the nation as a whole.

During the forty years from the settlement of the Republican Constitution in 1875 up to the war of 1914-18, political instability prevailed, the world being treated to the spectacle of no less than fifty-two phantom governments within that space of forty years. During that period the real business of Parliament, that is, the condition of the people and the conduct of public finance was practically neglected.

The numerous so-called parties were really only two. There was the Left which was for a maximum and there was the Right which was for a minimum of the Republic. This was an abstract controversy fought in the air and, as such, was at any rate more respectable than the personalities which otherwise occupied Parliament.

From 1914 to 1940, however, a new factor and a new force emerged into the field of politics with momentous consequences for France. Slowly and silently a new party began to rear its head which, this time, meant business. It believed neither in a maximum, nor in a minimum of the Republic; it did not believe in the Republic at all. This party was that of the Communists.

The rise of this new party after the war of 1914-18 was, however, very slow. But when the world economic crash came in 1929, France, though she resisted longer than any other country, presently began to feel the pinch and turn restless.

To the question how was it that the French Government and the General Staff adopted doctrines so obviously fatal to success in the war, the writer says that it was

probably because they must have known that the French people and the French army were unwilling to do more than sit tight at home and fend off the aggressor.

And the final reason why they were bent on adopting an attitude so utterly alien to their traditions and instincts, as well as so opposed to common sense, was that France had long been eaten out and exhausted by her internal animosities and, as a fighting force, was dead. Thus when the war really began and the tocsin sounded, though the gallant sons of France still existed, "France" did not.

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR READING

Writing on the above topic, Mr. O. Graves points out in the *Rosicrucian Digest* that everybody reads to-day for better or for worse. Compulsory education and the desire for recreation have made the reading habit practically universal. Suppose one desires strictly to do his own selecting of books on what principles shall he depend?

The American transcendentalist, Emerson, originated three: "Never read any book that is not an year old. Never read any but famous books, and never read any book but that which you like." J. N. Larned, famous author and librarian, gives his rule for the choice of books: "Does the book leave any kind of a wholesome and fine feeling in the mind of one who reads it?" Van Dyke first would have one read the general books of culture, then to "read only the texts of your profession", as well as "everything that in any way has even a remote bearing upon it". John Ruskin says: "Avoid especially that class of literature which has a knowing tone; it is the most poisonous of all." Leslie Stephen would have us to be certain of reading the great masterpieces. Criticism of books is not at present an exact science and probably never will be. Keen discrimination in the choice of books is the ultimate reward of much reading and full living. It is always wise to consider the advice of older and more experienced readers, then form your own conclusion.

When the individual reader realizes the true value of books, he will be more discriminating in his choice. The writer concludes:

In the final analysis it is true that out of the millions of books there are only a few thousand which are important. Recognising the value of such selected lists, authorities have from time to time chosen certain books which they believed were among the best. Perhaps the most famous of these is Sir John Lubbock's list of the best one hundred books. Too many people of to-day read no books at all giving as their excuse "there are no worth while books any more".

The realization of the inestimable value of books will create the reading habit and will place one in noble company. The great bibliophiles of history such as Cicero, Bacon, Lamb, Hazlitt, and Emerson all had great passions for books. The picture of Milton—blind, white-haired, a living shadow, sitting stroking and kissing the books he could no longer read is altogether disparaging to the modern reader's calloused and desultory spirit.

THE CABINET MINISTER AND ADMINISTRATION

The position of a Cabinet Minister as the head of a department under Parliamentary Government is the subject of an interesting article by MacGregor Dawson in the September number of the *Political Science Quarterly*. The Minister's position is justified on two broad grounds: he holds his office as a representative of the people and it is his paramount duty to see that the popular will is carried into effect. Secondly, as he is in supreme charge of a department yet not member of its permanent staff, he is expected to bring to the work of administration "a freshness of outlook, a stimulus to action, and a breadth of view" which a permanent official cannot supply. Mr. Dawson examines the position in the light of the experiences of three noted Cabinet Ministers who were all equally successful. These distinguished British Ministers—Lord Oxford and Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Curzon—are chosen "not only because of their exceptional capacity as Ministers but also because each presents entirely different qualities and equally dissimilar methods in dealing with administrative difficulties".

Asquith, Lloyd George and Curzon, while differing from one another in many ways, all followed the British cabinet tradition in the qualities they brought to their respective posts. Although they were amateurs and generally unable to compete with their officials in technical expertise, each was nevertheless an expert in another sense: he was a skilled administrator who was fully competent to run a department well. The Cabinet Minister, if he is to perform his functions adequately, needs a varied rather than a specialized equipment; he should possess such qualities as a discriminating judgment, a knowledge of men, sound common sense, an ability to make decisions, a willingness to work exceptionally hard, and an understanding of organization. Most of these a Minister is likely to have in fair measure at the time of his appointment, for the hard proving-ground of the House of Commons develops and trains its members along precisely

these lines, and there is a reasonable assurance that only the best of the survivors will be given portfolios. The lack of any technical or narrow skill on the part of the Minister makes him unusually adaptable, and he is consequently able to move from department to department with comparative ease and, as a rule, little loss in efficiency. This adaptability may be, of course, easily overstressed; for no Minister's talents are so catholic that they will not be better suited to some departments than to others. Mr. Lloyd George, for example, chose the Presidency of the Board of Trade in preference to the more remunerative Postmaster-Generalship, because the latter "offered him neither scope for initiative nor a challenge to enterprise," both of which he hoped to find—and did find—at the Board of Trade. Asquith as Home Secretary and Prime Minister, Lloyd George as Minister of Munitions and War Prime Minister, Curzon as Foreign Secretary are further examples of the same happy result obtained by matching personal traits to a congenial office.

Curzon was, of course, the antithesis of Lloyd George in his reluctance to delegate any power or responsibility. Each had a flair for organization; but the one built it about himself as the source of all energy and direction, while the other was content to make his immediate contribution only when the circumstances were so urgent that his special intervention became imperative. Curzon's methods and painstaking industry undoubtedly had a bureaucratic taint; but he protected himself by his imagination and breadth of vision, and there were times when his ordered control of detail seemed closely allied to genius. But, his passion for keeping a careful watch on every activity constituted a serious fault, for it made his administration unduly dependent on its head.

Each Minister will naturally rely on those qualities of mind and character, which have already served him well and to which in large measure he owes his existing high position.

The judicial Asquith will bring exceptional care and discriminating judgment to his administrative problems; the impulsive Lloyd George will approach his task with his well-known vigour and imagination; the bureaucratic Curzon will direct every detail with a painstaking thoroughness which has become his second nature. Each will affect his civil servants in an equally characteristic fashion: an Asquith by a calm confidence in their ability and co-operation, a Lloyd George by fair words and an appeal to their resourcefulness, a Curzon by scathing rebuke and personal example. Yet the general psychological effect may be much the same in all these cases. The civil servant will be given a stimulus and a new point of view; he will be brought into immediate and frequent contact with a mind quite different from his own in training, outlook and experience, yet one which is by no means inferior in either shrewdness or capacity.

BRITISH INTERESTS IN INDIA

"Britain conquered India for the economic advantages her occupation offered it," says Mr. Asoka Mehta, writing on 'British interests in India' in the December number of the *Modern Review*.

From the days of the East India Company to our times they have made many adjustments to extract fuller advantages from changing circumstances, but their essential character has remained consistently harmful to Indian interests.

They set foot on the Indian soil as a corporate body with unified control and monopoly rights in the form of the East India Company. Since then, they have always striven to maintain that unity and monopoly and to widen the field of their activities.

In the eighteenth century, trade with India was very profitable. To take advantage of it the Britishers came to India, not individually as merchants or even adventurers, but as a corporate body with monopoly rights. The unity and monopoly helped them not only to make huge profits but gradually to acquire control over the country. The Flag followed the Trade.

The large profits had far-reaching effects on the politics and the economy of Great Britain. The Industrial Revolution swept through Britain and made it "the workshop of the world". This workshop needed growing markets for manufactured goods and later for investments and expanding supplies of raw materials.

Britain determined to keep India an agricultural colony, supplying raw materials and absorbing British manufactured goods. The economic development of India could be thus "arrested and even reversed", because of the political control Britain exercised over her.

Ruralisation of India was adopted almost as a policy. Indian handicrafts were ruthlessly destroyed. Even agriculture was neglected except that sector of it that was needed in Britain's interests, such as the commercial crops like jute and cotton. In scholarly language all this was called *laissez faire*.

Crores of rupees were sunk in India to open her up for British goods and investments. But scrupulous care was taken to arrest her industrial development. The rules for the purchase of the Indian Government's stores, issued in 1870 and 1875, forbade the purchase of most industrial goods in India and required all contracts to be made in London. The Government strangled our industrial expansion to benefit the British interests.

Over Rs. 700 crores were spent on railway construction in India, spanning her vast distances for the quick transport of British goods and troops, but not a bolt or a nut was sought to be produced in the country.

When development of same industries in India appeared to be inevitable, the British interests, always alert and well-organised entered the field themselves. The industries were developed under British control and safely planted behind the rapidly rising tariff walls.

The luxury of protection has cost the Indian people about Rs. 500,00,00,000 but its main benefit has accrued to the British interests that dominate Indian industries.

In the railways not only the nine major lines (Capital Rs. 700 crores) are owned or operated by the British, but even of the thirty-one minor railways, twenty-eight (Capital Rs. 11,00,00,000) are in British hands. Of the hundred Jute Mills (Capital Rs. 23,00,00,000) working in India, over 50 (Capital Rs. 17,00,00,000) are under British control. Even in the Cotton Textile industry, which is popularly believed to be a monument of Indian enterprise, over 20 per cent of it is in British hands. In coal mines and tea and coffee plantations the British predominance is patent to all. In sugar, cement, paper, matches, they have significant shares. The deposits with British-owned and controlled banks are much larger than those with the Indian banks: Exchange Banks Rs. 75 crores, Quasi-Indian Banks: Rs. 155 crores, Indian Banks: Rs. 84 crores. In Insurance, 147 foreign companies draw an annual premium of Rs. 7 crores while 232 Indian Companies draw an annual premium of Rs. 8,75,00,000; but not all the latter are *swadeshi*. India has thus been reconquered behind the tariff wall.

These industries are controlled by a handful of "trusts": Bradys, Killick Nixons, Sassoons in Western India, Andrew Yule & Co., Martin & Co., McLeod & Co., etc., in eastern India. Every one of these trusts has many industrial concerns under it: Andrew Yule and Company, for instance, controls 54 concerns spread out in fifteen different fields of industrial activities.

FUNDAMENTALS OF DEMOCRACY

The theory of Democracy is not a definite system of political philosophy like Communism or Fascism, says Mr. P. Nagaraja Rao in the *Aryan Path* for December. It is a collection of principles that are generally regarded and accepted as intrinsically valid. They are accepted by the Democrat as self-evident.

What are the democratic principles? First, that the individual is of the greatest value in life and that the success of any civilisation or the efficiency of any government should be measured in terms of the scope provided for individual development.

The production of "the splendid individual and not the mechanically efficient society" is the aim of the Democrat. To a very large extent a Democrat is an individualist. The individual for the Democrat is not to be treated as "a drop of blood in a racial purity, nor as a cog in a proletarian or totalitarian machine, nor as an ant in a social termitary", but as a self that must live and grow according to the highest law of its being.

The second important principle of democracy is the belief in the principle of freedom as fostering the tender plant of individuality.

Freedom is the thing for which the individual lives and without it he is no better than a robot, an automaton. The denial of freedom is the denial of all that makes life worth living. A systematic denial of freedom reduces men to the level of brutes. The denial of freedom produces in men listlessness and cruelty together or in alternation. Passive adaptation is impossible for the individual; so the individuals that are denied freedom turn out to be grotesque and distorted specimens. In the long run their powers of endurance are also at an end. Endurance is the outcome of freedom. Without liberty an individual will not be able to learn to endure. Thus the denial of liberty would stand in the way of the achievement of true strength, which is valuable and real only where it is self-developed.

From these twin concepts of the sacredness of the individual and the necessity of freedom, all other minor tenets of Democracy follow.

The Democrat has no faith in the cult of the superman. The Democrat would never consent

to sacrifice the manifold personalities of the different individuals for the production of the more powerful or more imposing Leviathan. Democrats disbelieve in the principle that "the few must guide and the rest must follow". The Democrat believes that all men reach their best in different ways. The ordinary man is neither wicked at heart, nor weak in head; he is not even malleable clay to be properly shaped into form. The Democrat believes that the individual in a free environment has the greatest chance of rising to his full stature.

No true Democrat ever claims that Democracy is a final form of Government; but it is, as the writer truly observes, the least objectionable form of government that is practicable.

In the long run the Democratic principle makes for civilisation. It is not a mere form of government, it is an ideal philosophy of values. It is the secret of social peace. If human beings form one vast family, it is through the principle of Democracy that we may teach them, educate them to love one another and to pursue, in their common interests, the highest good of which mankind is capable. Call it enlightened self-interest if you like—but remember, it is enlightened—and therefore intensely human and not unworthy of men.

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For particulars, please apply to any of the Offices.

N. GOPALA IYER,

Secretary.

Jan. '41.

INDIAN ECONOMY AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Dr. C. R. Reddy, writing on the above subject in the *Twentieth Century* for December, points out that "the economic sovereignty of England over India must cease as much in the interests of England as of India. If India continues to be the weak link that she is today, the Imperial chain will scrap". Hence he urges that in India the State must undertake the primary responsibility for economic reconstruction.

For this it is not necessary, though it is desirable, to democratise the constitution. It is enough if the Central Government is nationalised by the constitution of a Cabinet of the nominees of the leading political organisations in the country so that they may fire the administration with our national ambitions and rouse the moral enthusiasm of the people. An economic planning inspired by the ambition to be a first-class State and equal Imperial Unit is best achieved by a Government in which the leaders of Indian opinion play a directing part. As things are, the popular feeling is that the Central Government as now constituted and functioning touches only the pockets of the people and not their hearts.

During the war, of course, the only right course is to invest our monies in fields that yield the quickest and best results; for we cannot afford to lose time preparing slow, undeveloped fields for a production which might not arrive in time for meeting swift mechanised attacks. So, I for one am not in the least opposed to the policy of buying or getting tanks and planes made in America or wherever they could be got in good quality and very good time. But this cannot be made the permanent policy of the State, leaving India for ever an impossible country for war industries with the exception of perhaps light munitions.

Indian industrialists complain that the shipbuilding, aviation and motor industries proposed to be started by them are not receiving the consideration due from the Government. Mr. Walchand Hirachand

has shown what an amount of help had been given by the British Government to Cunard and other shipping companies and how the attitude of the Indian Government to Indian shipping has been almost the reverse of helpful.

Since the immediate War policy of the Government must aim at quick and good results and cannot, except to a limited extent, concern itself with the slow process of preparing India for war production and other factors of national efficiency, it is necessary to create confidence in the people that the future would not be neglected or hampered as in the past; and this can be done only by nationalising the Central Government without reference to constitutional controversies. It is enough if for the present India is put under a strong and capable cabinet of National Leaders.

PRICE CONTROL

An informing article on "Price Control" is presented in the *Half Yearly Journal of the Mysore University* by Mr. Tirumalachar, who traces the history of the present price control scheme by the Government of India since September 1939. No scheme of Price Control, however perfect, can effectively cure all the evils of a soaring price level during period of war. For,

it can achieve its purpose only as a part of a co-ordinated and comprehensive policy of war economy. The roots of the problem lie deeper in the financing of increased Government demands by inflationary methods and in the physical shortage of goods. The cure must consequently be radical. Taxation must be high enough to prevent people from offering high retail prices. The compulsion to pay taxes has to be accompanied by the persuasion to lend to the Government with similar results. And a system of rationing will have to be introduced on a sufficiently wide scale to give a turn to the normal trading processes, which in war-time make retail shops the perfect centre for the activities of profiteers.

Price control will, therefore, be politically successful and economically sound only if it is regarded as one of the aspects of general economic policy. If, however, the present war is financed by inflationary means, then no measures of Price Control, however stringent, can prevent prices from rising. Indeed in these circumstances, it is not desirable to keep prices down. For if the Government does not raise the resources, it needs either by taxation or by the borrowing of genuine savings, then a rise in prices, is the only way in which the consumption of the people can be reduced in order to set the necessary labour, materials and capital equipment free for the purposes of war.

CHRISTIAN INDIANS & NATIONALISM

Dr. H. C. Mookerjee, writing in the *New Review* for December, points out that the greatest hindrance to a happy and united India is the regrettable appearance of the spirit of separatism, which has most unfortunately manifested itself in some form or other in every part of the country. Almost everywhere, interested motives alone account for differences of opinion which interferes with the growth of our national unity. Practically every community, he says, claims a definite percentage of services and clamours whenever it feels dissatisfied with the proportion of Government patronage it enjoys. It is surprising to notice the grounds on which such claims are advanced.

Some communities base their claims on the fact that they constitute the backward, depressed or scheduled castes, others on the fact of their superior wealth, education or vested interests. Communities are not wanting which claim special treatment on account of their loyalty and services to the Empire and stress their value as recruits to the army. Political predominance in the past, fancied superiority as a fighting race and what amounts to their nuisance value are also put forward as reasons for special treatment. These claims for preferential treatment are dictated by the desire to have a larger share in the loaves and fishes of office than a particular community is entitled to on the basis of efficiency.

Speaking broadly, probably with the exception of the Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans, all minority communities form part of a single nation. In no sense of the term can they be regarded as aliens.

The Muslims, the Sikhs, the Indian Christians and other minority communities, to all intents and purposes, are members of the same great nation. And yet mutual distrust and suspicion

mark the relations of the different communities. Communalism has been found to pay with the result that many who, in their heart of hearts, are aware of its evil effects, are taking advantage of the present situation for the sake of immediate gain.

Speaking for the Christians, Dr. Mookerjee deplores that the so-called Communal Award has forced them to become a separate political entity. By no stretch of imagination could it lead to national solidarity. Hence he pleads for a revision of the constitution eliminating this anomaly.

Some change in the constitution is bound to come as soon as the present war is over in which we all hope that Britain will be victorious. For all we know, such changes may come even earlier. Now is the time for all of us to come together and to put in a united demand for either the annulment of the Communal Award altogether or, if that is regarded as too drastic a step, which I do not admit, to at least demand a substantial modification of it in the shape of joint electorates.

It is quite true that if we seek inclusion in the general electorate, it will imply our social, economic and political absorption or rather assimilation by the majority communities or, if you prefer it, our extinction as a separate and independent political entity. From this will follow the loss of that importance which some of us enjoy to-day as the leaders of the prominent members of a comparatively small group. The utter worthlessness of this artificial importance, which some of us are enjoying at present, is a matter of such common knowledge that it deceives no one.

I would, therefore, most earnestly entreat every Christian Indian to think over this matter earnestly and to come to a just and correct decision. Let those of us who are thinking ahead of the times continually and without any intermission agitate for the acceptance of this principle and educate our brothers in faith in political wisdom, so that the transition from the communal to the general electorate may be natural and an easy one, and the demand for it may emerge so naturally, spontaneously and universally as to be almost automatic.

VEDANTA DESIKA

Brahmachari Bhaktichaitanya writes about Sri Vedanta Desika, the great South Indian Vaishnavite Saint in the December number of the *Prabuddha Bharata*. The Brahmachari says that Desika was a versatile genius and a true philosopher who did not divorce philosophy from the realities of life. In those days of religious fanaticism, he combined in himself the most generous tolerance to the views that were not his own with the courage of his fundamental convictions. The writer continues:

The life of Desika impresses one with the contraries; he was a Kavi and a Tarkika, a saint and a savant, a stern ascetic and a householder. One sees him as a merciless debator with dialectical skill in great controversies, fighting with the lightning shafts of reason; another sees him as an Acharya expounding the scriptures with authority; for the third he is an ideal saint with innate beauty of character; for the fourth he is a mystic in whom boundless Para Bhakti to the Deity and burning love for his apiritual teacher are blended in perfect symphony.

Desika's great service to the cause of Sri Vaishnava Philosophy is recounted in the following words by the writer:—

Desika's great service to the cause of Sri Vaishnava philosophy was the saving of the *Sruta-prakasika*, the great gloss on the Sri Bhaghyas of Sri Ramanuja, by the famous Sudarsana Bhattarya, from destruction when the army of Malik Kafur, General of Allauddin sacked Srirangam in 1327 A.D. Sri Sudarsana Bhattarya, before he was killed in the general massacre, handed over to Desika his work as well as his two children. Desika with the precious gloss and the two children fled to Mysore territory where he stayed for a time. After some years having come to know that Srirangam was freed from the ruthless hands of the vandals, he returned to the holy city and resumed his old office.

Desika spent much of his time at Srirangam and Tiruvahindrapuram as an ideal householder living a life of absolute poverty. He spent the last years of his life in quiet meditation retiring from all philosophical wranglings. It is chronicled that he passed away after completing the full span of life.

VAISHNAVITE REFORMERS OF INDIA. By Prof. Rajagopalachari. Re. One. To Subscribers of "Indian Review," As. 12. G. A. Natesan & Co., Publishers, Madras.

TIMES OF INDIA ANNUAL

This Annual for 1941, which is priced Rs. Two, fully maintains its high standard alike in printing and get-up. Eight full plates in colour, besides numerous reproductions of photographs, make a sumptuous volume. "Shivaji at Aurangzeb's Court" is a fine picture depicting a well known scene in Indian history. The Mahratta Chieftain's indignant protest against the Emperor's insult is vividly portrayed. There are interesting articles on a variety of subjects of equal interest to the layman and scholar. H. H. The Maharaja of Nawanagar recounts his shooting experiences. Other articles of note are: "The Power of Iron" by Verrier Elwin, "The Marwari Marionette Man" by A. Duarte, and "The Chitrakathis (The Picture Showmen of the Deccan)" by B. G. Murdeshwar. Altogether the Annual is replete with things to instruct and entertain the reader.

INDIA IN PERIODICALS

INDIAN MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION. By H. Goetz. [The New Review, December 1940.]

GOVERNMENT AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION. By Clifford Manshardt. [The Indian Journal of Social Work, December 1940.]

A LIFE PICTURE OF SWAMI PARAMANANDA. By Sister Devamata. [Message of the East, September 1940.]

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING IN INDIA. By Rajani Kanta Das. [The Modern Review, December 1940.]

INDIA'S RIVER OF ROMANCE. By St. Nihal Singh. [The Times of India Annual 1941.]

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL. By Dr. Kalidas Nag. [New Asia, December, 1940.]

PLAN OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN INDIA. By Sir A. P. Patro. [The Calcutta Municipal Gazette Anniversary Number.]

DEVELOPMENT OF TRAVANCORE FISHERIES. By Dr. C. C. John. [Travancore Information, November 1940.]

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS

DEPARTMENTAL

NOTES

Questions of Importance

DR. SAPRU'S STATEMENT

In a statement drawing attention to the present political situation in the country, the Rt. Hon. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru offers the following suggestions to end the dead-lock and bring about a National Government:—

1. (a) That Mahatma Gandhi, in whom all the powers and functions of the Congress are at present centred, and Mr. Jinnah should meet and meet promptly and discuss things in a free, open and large-hearted manner with the fixed determination that they must come to some sort of a settlement;

(b) That, not only should they meet between themselves, but they should also invite one or two leaders of the Hindu Sabha, the Sikhs and the Depressed Classes, etc., and I would make an earnest appeal to them just as I would to Mr. Jinnah, that, in the larger interests of the country, the spirit which should permeate them in their discussions should be different from that which permeates in public discussions. It will do no good at this juncture and certainly not promote the objective of unity or settlement to ask whether it is right or wrong to make the future of India dependent upon the will or the veto of the minorities. We must take the situation as it is at present.

(c) They must also see the Viceroy and press on him—1. to reconstruct for the period of the war his government so as to give it in substance the character of a National Government. From a practical point of view, it is entirely immaterial by what name you call it, whether you call it a 'national government' or a 'national executive' or merely an 'executive council', the essence of the whole thing being, that the number of non-official Indians, who command the confidence of large sections of the people, in whose honour and judgment the country can trust, should be preponderantly large.

2. That with the advent of the new Commander-in-Chief, or even before, an Indian Defence Member should be appointed as the moral effect of that on the imagination of the people will be immense, and in my opinion, Government in agreeing to it will be reviving the faith of the country and removing the sense of frustration, which, in the last analysis, is affecting the entire psychology of the country.

3. They should press on the Viceroy that heavy industries, particularly those connected with the war, including the manufacture of aeroplanes

should be started at as early a date as possible, even though Whitehall may be unwilling for one reason or another, and tell him plainly that the plea that technical experts are not available or cannot be got elsewhere is looked upon even by the friends of Government as a plea of obstruction or delay, which can bring no conviction to the Indian mind.

4. They must also draw attention to the present constitutional position in the provinces and tell him that if the old Ministries cannot be revived or cannot work smoothly, an attempt should be made with the goodwill of all to establish mixed or Coalition Ministries and even if this attempt fails, non-official Advisers to be associated with the administration of the provinces simultaneously with the reconstruction of the Central Government, and, lastly, that the War Board, which alone can at this stage bring British India and Indian States together on a common platform, be established provided it is going to be a live and active Board.

BRITISH M. P.'S' APPEAL TO INDIA

A letter to the people of India from friends in the House of Commons has been published in the press. The signatories include some well-known members belonging to different parties in the House. They underline the Viceroy's offer and plead for a provisional settlement.

The British people desire that the advance towards Indian political freedom should be made as rapidly as possible. Realities must, however, be faced. India will certainly appreciate that it is hardly possible for the British Government to take part in a complicated constitutional settlement in the midst of war. Mr. Gandhi has recognised this. But the war must not be made an excuse for indefinite delay. We are clear that the new Constitution must be set up immediately after the war and we think that the interval ought not merely to be a blank period. Why should not Indians get together? Is it not possible to find men in India with the necessary qualifications who will agree to settle down together to a period of hard work, striving to design the framework of a plan which will be the best not merely for one community or party or political organisation or class or caste but for India as a whole and for her 400 millions of people? Such seem to us the fundamentals,

Utterances of the Day

MR. AMERY'S SLOGAN: "INDIA FIRST"

Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, applied the slogan "India First" when speaking at a luncheon in London on December 12. He said:

Let me say to begin with what I mean by the word "India". By India, I mean India as a whole; India as nature and history have shaped her; India with her infinite diversity and underlying unity; India as she is today and as we wish her to be in the years to come.

India, like our own island, has submitted to many influences from without.

The last, but in some respects the most potent, of all these external influences has been that of this country exercised upon India, now for nearly three hundred years. Its effect upon India's racial composition and internal social structure has been negligible. But in the political domain, the effect has far exceeded that of any of its predecessors.

The British rule alone succeeded in giving India that political unity which is the indispensable condition of her free and peaceful development. It gave to India what the Norman conquest gave England, a strong ordered administration. It gave what England won for herself in Magna Carta, the reign of law and a legal system, which Indian judges and lawyers have progressively contributed to administer and to enrich. It gave, above all, in the English language not only a common medium but a common foundation of political thinking among Indians of every class or creed. In that sense at least, the British influence in India has become an integral part of her national life, and India and England are today in political outlook and aspiration, if not in race, members of one political family.

What I want to emphasise is that in these things the political unity of India and the development in India of British conceptions of individual freedom and national self-Government are intimately connected.

What then do I mean by India first. I think that I can best convey my meaning in alternative ways, putting myself in the place first of one and then of another of those to whom I wish to commend this watchword.

Let me begin by placing myself in the position of a British Indian, a member of the Hindu community, a believer in Indian freedom from outside control and in democracy—shall I say a follower of the Congress or of the Hindu Mahasabha. What should 'India first' mean for one in that position? How in that case should I interpret it for myself? Would it not be in some such sense as follows? If I put India first, then must I not win over to my conception of India's future my Muslim neighbour who is as essentially and so essentially a part of India as I am? I may prefer a democratic system on the simple majority basis that prevails in England and a closely knit centralised constitution.

Putting, himself in turn in the position of a follower of an Indian Muslim, a Ruler of an Indian State and an Englishman, Mr. Amery declared

that the slogan "India first" demanded from every element comprehensive tolerance and compromise; acceptance of the real India as it exists today, not the uncompromising insistence upon the immediate and complete realisation of the theoretical India which any particular element or party had inscribed upon its banner.

Believing as I do that the highest interest of Britain lies in the strength and permanence of the British Commonwealth, I know that the strength of that Commonwealth and the permanence of that Commonwealth can only be based on the fullest freedom, the fullest developments, the fullest variety of individual lies in each of its parts.

It was from that point of view that the Viceroy made his statement three months ago. That offer had for the moment been rejected, not because it was itself inadequate but because the spirit of "India first" was not strong enough to overcome the insistence on impracticable demands on the one side or undue suspicion on the other.

I am not prepared to believe that this will be India's final reaction to the offer which is still before her.

Mr. Amery continued that

there must be many of every party and every community in India, younger men with ideals and yet wide-eyed for reality, practical men of affairs who between them should be able to find a way out of a dead-lock between contending Indian claims which could not serve either India or that common cause in the present conflict which every Indian knew was as much his own as it was ours. It is to them above all that I would commend the watchword of "India first".

MR. CHURCHILL ON "WAR AIMS"

"When this war is won—as it surely will be—it must be one of our aims to establish a state of society where the advantages and privileges which hitherto have been enjoyed only by a few shall be far more widely shared by the men and youth of the nation as a whole." This statement was made by Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, speaking at his old school of Harrow.

SIR KUNWAR ON COMMUNALISM

In the very brief but impressive address that Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh delivered at the Lucknow University, he deplored that there is too much of communalism in India and "it has increased rather than diminished". He made a fervent appeal to the young men of the University to stop this insidious disease.

I am convinced that the main obstacle to political advance in this country is communal ill-feeling. The solution is not easy. But I suggest that it is only by having intimate friends among the followers of another creed, by appreciating their point of view, and above all by a spirit of compromise on which, Burke has said, "all Government, indeed every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue and every prudent act is founded", that Communalism can be successfully attacked. Should you for this purpose need inspiration, I invite you to study, as I did last cold weather the writings of the mystics: Hindu, Christian and Muslim, and learn from them the eternal truth of the fundamental unity of man transcending all diversity.

He revealed that while entertaining Mahatma Gandhi and later Mr. Jinnah in his house in Simla, he took the opportunity "to beg of them in all humility to see each other and to discuss ways and means for ending the present tension". And he wound up by saying "men and women of our generation have failed to solve this question. May you succeed when we have failed"!

MR. JINNAH'S SLOGAN

"Pakistan is not far off. Every Mussalman in every town and village is ready to sacrifice for Pakistan," declared Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President of the All-India Muslim League, addressing a public meeting at Ahmedabad on December 27. He said that Dr. Moonje talked of Hindu nation, Hindu rule and Hindu kingdom. While the Hindu Mahasabha spoke plainly, the Congress spoke subtly, but they both spoke the same thing in substance and letter.

INDIA AND THE WAR

Sir S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-Chancellor of the Benares Hindu University, in the course of his address to the Convocation of the Patna University, declared:

The finest anti-Nazi material is in India, and it is nothing short of a tragedy that she is still mainly unreconciled. If freedom of all people is the aim of this war, as it should be, then those who were conquered in the past must be set free. To win the war will not mean much if it does not remove the great wrongs of the present world. We must demonstrate even to the enemy that we reverence the ideals of justice and freedom which we condemn him for rejecting. British statesmen do not seem to realise sufficiently that new forces are at work which require a new outlook and interpretation.

There are many injustices, added Sir Radhakrishnan, in the British system which are corrupting but that should not betray us into blurring the distinction between unfulfilled justice and a clean negation of justice. Every individual is obliged to choose one rather than the other. Even for those who suffer from the injustices of the British system, the duty is clear. It is to defend the cause of Britain and at the same time assist Britain to remedy the injustices which are manifestly inconsistent with her professed ideals.

MR. BOSE AND CONGRESS PRESIDENT

In the course of a long statement commenting on the disciplinary action taken by the Congress President against the Deputy Leader and 18 other members of the Bengal Congress Parliamentary Party, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose characterises it as *ultra vires* of the Congress constitution and indulges in a personal attack on Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Mr. Bose says that since the Working Committee has handed over all its powers to Mahatma Gandhi, the only single individual who can speak in the name of the Congress is Gandhiji and not Maulana Azad. What more, it is the Working Committee and not the President by himself that can take disciplinary action.

OSMANIA UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

Sir Maurice Gwyer, Chief Justice of India, delivering the Convocation Address to the Osmania University, said that he was anxious to see the Universities taking a more useful and prominent part in Indian public life, and it was on this account that he had been led to suggest directions in which their activities would find ample scope. He was not advocating that they should plunge into party politics, but rather that they should give an impulse to political thought based upon historical knowledge, instructed sympathy and that sense of proportion which he had ventured to single out as the most valuable gift which a University can confer upon its children.

HINDI CONVOCATION

"Your study of Hindi is really symbolic of the coming change, of the new social order that will very soon be established in this country," said Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitharamayya addressing the new graduates at the Tenth Annual Convocation of the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha at Madras.

The Convocation was held in a specially erected pandal and the new graduates, nearly 50 in number, including four women, marched in a procession.

Mr. M. Satyanarayana, General Secretary, said the Sabha had been conducting three grades of examinations since 1922 and so far nearly 116,828 candidates have sat for the examinations, the number this year being 19,028. In the Rashtra Basha Visharad examinations, of 8,458 candidates who had appeared till now, only 1,876 had passed; this year 141 candidates had passed this examination.

NAGPUR UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION

The Convocation of the Nagpur University was held on December 7, H. E. Sir Henry Twynam, the Chancellor, presiding. Four hundred and eighty-three graduates were admitted to their respective degrees; of these 44 were women. Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy and Sir Moropant Joshi were admitted to the Degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

Addressing the Convocation, His Excellency paid a glowing tribute to the successful and vigorous administration of the University under the guidance of Mr. Kadar. He continued:

I am very glad to hear that a degree in commerce has now been instituted. I feel that there is bound to be increasing scope for the employment of men with degrees in commerce. The formidable competition which now obtains in the legal and medical professions makes it desirable that an increasing number of young men should make themselves eligible for employment in the higher ranks of commerce and industry by securing commerce degrees.

To the students in particular, His Excellency said:

Cultivate a philosophic mind and you can smile not only at adversity but at all the petty irritants which are the inevitable companions of daily existence. When you find difficulties on your studies, when things do not go just as you would like them to go, and, especially when you feel overworked, there is no better remedy than I know of than to repeat to yourself the words of Marcus Aurelius: "Our lives are what our thoughts make them."

STUDENTS AND SATYAGRAHA

"I will be too willing to take all the students in the *satyagraha* movement but I do not believe in half-hearted measures. If you want to join the movement, you should leave the colleges altogether and get permission of your parents. But on the other hand if you want to continue your studies in the colleges, you should do nothing which would amount to a breach of the college discipline."

This in brief was the message given by Mr. Gandhi to the Madras students who sought his advice at Wardha.

THE DEBT RELIEF ACT

The Federal Court by a majority consisting of the Chief Justice and Sir S. Varadachariar dismissed the appeal, questioning the validity of the Madras Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act.

Sir Maurice Gwyer in his judgment said: "It must inevitably happen from time to time that legislation though purporting to deal with a subject in one list, touches also on a subject in another list, and the different provisions of the enactment may be so closely intertwined that blind adherence to a strictly verbal interpretation would result in a large number of statutes being declared invalid, because the Legislature enacting them may appear to have legislated in a forbidden sphere. Hence the rule which has been evolved by the Judicial Committee whereby the impugned statute is examined to ascertain its pith and substance or its true nature and character for the matter of that.

I am clear that the pith and substance of the Madras Act whatever it may be, cannot at any rate be said to be legislation with respect to negotiable instruments or promissory notes, which are central subjects. And it seems to me quite immaterial that many or even most of the debts with which it deals are in practice evidenced by or based upon such instruments. That is an accidental circumstance which cannot affect the question.

Suppose that at some later date money-lenders were to adopt a different method of evidencing the debts of those to whom they lend money, how could the validity or invalidity of the Act vary with money-lenders' practice? I am of opinion therefore that the Act cannot be challenged as invading the forbidden field of List I (the Federal Legislative Lists) for it was not suggested that it dealt with any item in that list other than No. 28."

THE T. N. & Q. BANK CASE

The curtain was rung down on the Travancore National and Quilon Bank case when, on December 9, Justices Sankarabubbier and Madhavan Pillai delivered separate but concurring judgments in the appeal preferred by the former Directors of the Travancore National and Quilon Bank against the conviction and sentence of the Trivandrum Sessions Court on charges of falsification of accounts, etc.

Their Lordships confirmed the conviction against accused (1) to (4) but modified the sentences as follows: The sentence on the first accused K. C. Mammen Mapillai, ex-Chairman of the Bank, was reduced to three-years' simple imprisonment and the fine to Rs. 1,000, the sentence on the second accused K. C. Eapen, ex-Vice-Chairman of the Bank who died recently was abated consequent on his death except for the fine of Rs. 500 which was maintained. The sentences on the third accused, C. P. Mathen, ex-Managing-Director of the Bank, and the fourth accused K. M. Eapen were reduced to five years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2,000 each. The fifth accused, K. V. Verghese was acquitted.

VITHALBHAI'S LEGACY

Sardar Vallabhai Patel recently wrote a letter to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad stating that he had sent direct to the treasurer of A. I. C. C. a cheque for Rs. 1,00,000, being a bequest under the will of the Sardar's brother, the late Mr. Vithalbhai Patel.

The Sardar has requested the Congress President to form a committee to spend the amount as it may think fit.

The President has replied thanking the Sardar and asking him and other heirs to create a trust named after the late Vithalbhai Patel and have it registered,

MYSORE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE

Notwithstanding the generally adverse conditions prevailing in the country, during the year ending 30th June 1940, 6,904 policies of the Public Branch, of the Mysore Government Insurance Department were issued for an assurance of Rs. 58,61,900.

The total business in force at the end of the year was 42,280 policies assuring Rs. 8,88,81,800, while the closing balance of the Fund at the end of the year 1939-40 was Rs. 1,01,88,600.

As a result of the actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 30th June, 1938, a simple reversionary bonus of Rs. 20 per thousand per annum was declared on all with profit policies in force on the date of valuation.

Mysore State is the pioneer in throwing open life insurance under its guarantee to its subjects. The assurance amounts are guaranteed by the State Revenues and as the business of the Branch is managed with the utmost economy, it has been possible to afford the maximum assurance cover consistent with security at a minimum cost. Started in 1915, after 25 years' experience with compulsory insurance for its officials, the Public Branch of the Department, though open only to Mysoreans (by birth or domicile), has within the short period of its existence been able to achieve remarkable results and thus to secure a fairly high rank among the foremost life offices in India, both as regards the progress of business and its utility to the general public. Though a Department of Government, the Public Branch is in its dealings with constituents conducted on up-to-date lines of a commercial concern.

NEW BRITISH SCHEME

The whole adult population of the United Kingdom is covered by a scheme of compensation for injury or death due to enemy action. The scheme announced by Sir Kingsley Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer, provides for weekly payments varying between 85 shillings and 7 shillings according to the category of the person injured.

Reuter's lobby Correspondent says that it is claimed that no other Government or country has made such ample provisions for such cases in the present war. Pensions will be payable in cases of long term disablement while the widow of a civilian worker, whose death was due to enemy action, may receive 50 shillings weekly for the first 10 weeks following her husband's death.

INSURANCE ACT AMENDING BILL

It is understood that according to present plans a Bill to amend the Insurance Act will be introduced in the budget session of the Central Assembly. The Bill which embodies proposals discussed at the Conference of Insurance interests and Government of India representatives held at Simla last summer seeks *inter alia* to make the office of the Superintendent of Insurance self-supporting.

COMPULSORY INSURANCE

The *United Press* understands that the Government of Bengal are examining a scheme for compulsory life insurance of all Government servants.

THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS

The annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce met at Calcutta on December 18.

Welcoming His Excellency the Viceroy, H. E. the Governor of Bengal, the delegates and the guests, Mr. H. J. S. Richardson, President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, said that

in the background of the present terrific events, India's failure to secure unity at a time like the present must be fraught with consequences which had not been sufficiently considered by political India.

Mr. Richardson referred to the setting up of an Export Advisory Council

as a most welcome endeavour on the part of the Government of India to find a solution of the many difficult problems arising out of the abnormal circumstances.

His Excellency Lord Linlithgow, addressing the meeting, reviewed the events of the past year at considerable length and referred to India's contribution to war effort and the industrial development resulting therefrom and wound up with a *resume* of the efforts made by His Majesty's Government to solve the constitutional dead-lock. Appealing for support in solving the constitutional problem, His Excellency reiterated that His Majesty's Government's objective was to lead India to the proclaimed goal of Dominion Status and that as early as may be.

There is nothing more that we can do than we have done. We are entitled to claim, we do claim, and I claim today that it is for the Indian parties themselves, for those communities' interests and political leaders concerned to get together and to see what they can do by way of reaching an accommodation with one another against the background which I have just mentioned.

His Excellency then referred to the *satyagraha* movement and remarked that while he had every respect for genuine conscientious objection, the Government had

a duty to this country to see that India's war effort is not in any way impeded, that not a single sepoy is deprived of the arms and ammunition that he needs, whether by speeches or by more active forms of opposition.

A cable from the British Federation recognizing "the increasingly vital part which industries co-ordinated by the Eastern Group Conference will play in the future conduct of the war" was read. In reply, the Associated Chambers reaffirmed their determination to assist to the full with India's contribution towards the defence of the Empire.

One of the two resolutions, moved by W. J. Yannie of Bengal Chamber, urged upon the Government of India the need for an immediate amendment of Section 10 (2) (VII) of the Indian Income-Tax Act.

Mr. H. S. Town of Madras Chamber of Commerce seconded the resolution which was carried.

The second resolution was moved by Mr. R. R. Haddow of Bengal Chamber of Commerce and seconded by Mr. A. Macintosh of Bombay Chamber of Commerce. The resolution urged that all taxes and royalties, however calculated, payable to Provincial Governments or local authorities should be allowable as a business expenditure, as the Association was convinced that these were in fact expended wholly for the purpose of the business and urged that Section 10 (4) of the Indian Income-tax Act should be suitably amended.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce was elected to nominate the President of the Association for the year 1940-41.

Mr. R. D. Denniston, Deputy President of the Chambers and delegate from the Madras Chamber of Commerce, proposed a vote of thanks to His Excellency the Viceroy.

BRITISH WOMEN IN GERMANY

In the course of a question relating to the exchange of British women detained by German Government, Colonel Evans asked the Foreign Secretary to bear in mind a letter received from one of these persons, dated October 1st, alleging that there had been no change of clothing for five months, they had not received any parcels or letters of any kind and were fed on potatoes and had no occupation. In view of these circumstances and the small number of British women involved, Col. Evans asked if the Government would take steps to see that representations were made to proper quarter at the earliest moment.

Replying, Mr. R. A. Butler said that Government realised the seriousness of the position and were aware of the difficulties existing in putting things right.

On October 31, the total number of persons detained in Britain under Defence Regulations was 1,871.

The figure is given in a white paper dealing with the subject, which also states that during that month 88 persons were detained, all being British subjects although 16 of them of enemy origin.

SATYAGRAHA AND WOMEN

A report seems to be current, says Mr. Mahadev Desai explaining Mahatma Gandhi's instructions that the Mahatma has prohibited the offering of civil disobedience by women. This is obviously based on some misunderstanding. When *satyagraha* was started, he had permitted some women, who were outside the classes of M. L. A.'s Central and Provincial, and A. I. C. C. members, to offer civil disobedience as an exception.

All he has done now is to restrict the civil disobedience for the time being only to the members of the three classes who satisfy the requisite conditions. As a result, some women from Gujarat, who were originally permitted but who do not belong to any of the three classes, were asked not to offer civil disobedience. This seems to have given rise to the current misleading report. It was never intended to debar women who are members of the Legislatures or of the A. I. C. C. All those who are outside the three classes, whether they are men or women, have to await their turn.

MRS. RANGANADHAN

An important addition to the Royal Indian Navy has been made with the launching of a new warship from a British ship-building yard recently. The naming ceremony was performed by Mrs. S. E. Ranganadhan, wife of Diwan Bahadur S. E. Ranganadhan, adviser to the Secretary of State for India, who was also present.

MRS. SAROJINI NAIDU

It is understood that Mrs. Sarojini Naidu has not been permitted by Mahatma Gandhi to offer *satyagraha* again.

Mrs. Naidu will be recouping her health while devoting herself to Congress work in Bombay and might undertake a tour, her health permitting. She will go back to Hyderabad and rest there.

MRS. KRIPALINI

Mrs. Sucheta Kripalini, wife of Acharya Kripalini, was sentenced under the Defence of India Rules to one year's simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 at Fyzabad where she was tried.

THE PHILOSOPHICAL CONGRESS

The twenty-sixth session of the Indian Philosophical Congress met at Madras on December 20. Dr. Sen Gupta of the Lucknow University presiding.

Sir Mahomed Usman, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, welcoming the delegates to the Congress said that

it was twelve years since the Congress met in Madras. During that period they had a decade of peace and were looking forward to its continuance. But unfortunately they were now in the grip of another merciless war brought on by the "wicked, brutal and selfish ambition of Hitler". The need for philosophy was never greater than at present.

In his presidential address, Dr. Sen Gupta observed :

People must 'live by bread' and must fasten a firm grip on the world of things. At the same time, the social and the cultural stimuli must be permitted to operate on the mind. Civilisation and its progress represent a nice balance between these two divergent lines of evolution.

When people are out to exploit others in order that they themselves may have a place under the sun, when they impose their will upon others by reason of their animal prowess, they force life and mind, their own and of others, to the low level functions. When men regress to the life of naked impulses, to the primal stage of restless hunger for material gain at the cost of others, they commit a crime against nature and culture alike.

There was a general discussion on "Nationalism" and the papers submitted by Prof. A. R. Wadia, Mr. J. F. Butler and Mr. J. C. Banerjee formed the basis of discussion.

MR. K. NATARAJAN

A Committee, with the Rt. Hon. Dr. M. R. Jayakar as President, has been formed in Bombay to give expression to the public appreciation of the services rendered to the country by Mr. K. Natarajan through his fifty-year old weekly—*The Indian Social Reformer*. The appeal issued for funds is an admirable estimate of Mr. Natarajan's character and work. "He was always free, frank and fearless in the expression of his views, but never unfair. He willed to be heard and was heard with respect." It is proposed to endow a scholarship for journalism in the Bombay University for which at least Rs. 10,000 will be required. If funds permit, other memorials will be considered.

DR. C. R. REDDY

Dr. C. R. Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of the Andhra University, was the recipient of numerous tokens of tribute on the occasion of his Shastiabdapoorthi on December 10. Glowing tributes were paid by prominent men in different walks of life, who met at a public meeting in Vizagapatam under the presidency of Sir C. V. Raman who referred in eloquent terms to his contribution to the public life of India in the field of education and especially to Andhradesa.

The Committee formed to commemorate the occasion presented a bronze bust of Dr. Reddy to the University. It was unveiled at the University pavilion by H. E. the Governor of Madras.

SIR WILLIAM BEARDSSELL

By the death which occurred in England, on December 6, of Sir William Beardsell, Madras, has lost one of its distinguished former citizens, and a well-known business-man in the province.

The late Sir William Beardsell came out to India in 1887, joining Messrs. Hajee Mahomed Abdul Azeez Badsha Sahib and Co. as an assistant. Fifteen years later he founded the firm of W. A. Beardsell and Co. continued to be its Managing Director till September 1939.

For two successive years, 1918 and 1919, the late Sir William Beardsell was Sheriff of Madras. He was Knighted in 1919.

PRINCE ALI KHAN

Prince Ali Khan, son of H. H. the Aga Khan, now holds an emergency commission in the British forces. The announcement of his appointment as Second Lieutenant in the Wiltshire Regiment has been gazetted.

SARDAR SAMPURAN SINGH

Sardar Sampuran Singh, Leader of the Congress Assembly Party in the Punjab, has been expelled from the Party by the Congress President, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, for his conduct in court after his recent arrest.

A SURGICAL FEAT FOR CANCER

Curing cancer by even complete amputation of a lung has now become a definite success.

Six years ago a Pittsburgh physician was having cancer of the lung and experts gave up his case as hopeless. The patient went to St. Louis and met a famous surgeon Everts Ambrose Graham. Dr. Graham decided on a desperate measure, never before tried in the history of surgery. Complete amputation of the cancerous lung in one stage—that was the surgeon's decision.

An incision was made down the sick man's back, beside and below his shoulder blade. Carefully Dr. Graham slit through tough chest muscles, removed sections of seven ribs, neatly severed the lumpy grey lung high up where the windpipe separates into two branches.

Then he tied the stump with a tight catgut knot. Finally, he stitched up the chest muscles. To his great joy, his patient survived.

Since then hundreds of lung amputations have been performed in America with great success. "In suitable cases," says Dr. Graham, "where the cancer is not too far advanced, the operation can be done with a mortality of only 10 per cent."

PULLED TOOTH RESTORES VISION

The remarkable case of a woman of 58, who had the sight of one of her eyes restored by the removal of a tooth is recorded in *The Optician*.

The sight of her right eye started to fail, and vision became blurred, it says. She had been indulging in a lot of needlework and put it down to this cause; but the sight became gradually worse until she consulted an oculist. He diagnosed a burst blood vessel in the eye.

Sometime later the woman became conscious of a pain in her upper jaw. This was rather unaccountable, for she had all her teeth removed some years before. She went to a dentist, who discovered a complete tooth embedded in the upper jaw.

He removed it, and from that moment, the eye began to regain its sight.

CURARE

South American Indians have killed many of their enemies with arrows dipped in poison. What was the deadly concoction they used? Long ago it was discovered that the arrow-poison was curare obtained from certain plants, but the formula for its manufacture remain a closely-guarded secret.

Two Americans, a surgeon and an explorer, have discovered the secret. They won the confidence and friendship of some of the natives of Ecuador—the explorer was elected a witch doctor to a tribe—and were shown how curare was made. Their purpose in seeking this information was not, of course, to learn a new method of poisoning enemies. They wanted to know how to manufacture curare in the treatment of various diseases.

It is claimed that curare has brought relief from pain cases of spastic paralysis, which is more prevalent and more deadly than infantile paralysis. In some instances relief came almost immediately.

HEART BEATS AND LONG LIFE

The pace of your heartbeats is an indication of your expectation of life, according to American doctors who examined 2,882 adult males for life insurance purposes. A man in early middle age whose heart beats 72 times a minute has a better average chance of long life, they consider, than a man whose heart beats faster.

But if you find your heartbeats exceed 72 a minute, you can take consolation from the doctors' rider that any person may be an exception to the average.

BIRTH-RATES IN EUROPE AND ASIA

According to the current *Statistical Yearbook*, the birth-rates of the leading countries of Europe and Asia are as follows:—

France	14
Britain	15
Germany	19
Italy	28
Japan	80

India's birth-rate is 48, according to *Tietze* (Dr. Christoph Tietze of Vienna).

CURRENCY BATTLE IN CHINA

A 'currency battle' between the Japanese-sponsored National Government in China at Nanking and Chinese Government at Chungking has begun with the organization of a central reserve bank issue by the Nanking Government, states the Domei Agency.

The new Central Bank starts operating from January 6, with headquarters at Nanking and branches at Shanghai and in other cities. Capitalized at a hundred-million, the new central bank will have its note issue covered with gold and silver specie for 40 per cent. Circulation of the currency of the new bank will be limited to three provinces: Kiangsu, Chekiang, and Kwangsi. The Chungking dollar, now in circulation, will be withdrawn by the new bank which will exchange the Nanking for the Chinese National dollar at par.

THE TRAVANCORE NATIONAL BANK

The Full Bench of the Travancore High Court, consisting of the Chief Justice, Mr. Abraham Verghese, and Justices Nokes and Ramakrishna Iyer, on the 9th last month, delivered judgment in the petition filed by Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri on behalf of the Committee of Inspection, Travancore National and Quilon Bank creditors, praying for co-operation between the courts of Madras and Travancore in the matter of equal distribution of assets. Their Lordships delivered different but concurring judgments.

INDIGENOUS BANKERS

The Publicity Officer, Assam, recently issued the following Press Note:

For indigenous bankers to avail of the concession rates of remittance notified by the Reserve Bank of India and published by a Press Note No. 89, dated 5-10-40, they were required to apply to the nearest treasury or sub-treasury officer for enlistment. For the benefit of those who may not like to apply to a treasury or sub-treasury officer for confidential reasons, it has further been arranged that such bankers will be permitted to send their applications direct to the Reserve Bank of India.

RESEARCH ON RAILWAYS

The Standing Finance Committee for Railways at its recent meeting is understood to have approved a scheme for the creation of a permanent research organisation for Indian Railways.

It was explained that the necessity for continuous experiment and research in all technical matters had been repeatedly stressed by several expert committees who had reported and advised on subjects connected with the working of Indian railways in recent years.

Under the proposal, individual railways would refer their problems to the central research organisation. The Committee is still discussing proposals relating to expenditure on open line works.

MR. S. PURNAIYA

Mr. S. Purnaiya, Deputy Chief Commercial Superintendent, South Indian Railway, has been appointed Chief Transportation Superintendent in the place of Mr. J. F. C. Reynolds, who has been appointed Agent and General Manager. Mr. Purnaiya is the first Indian who has been appointed to this place.

ASSAM-BENGAL & B. B. & C. I. RAILWAYS

It has been decided to terminate the contracts of the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway Company and the Assam-Bengal Railway Company and notices have been being served accordingly.

The railways will be taken over for management by the State from January 1, 1942.

E. B. RAILWAY

A communique issued by the Traffic Manager, Eastern Bengal Railway, announces that the dismantling of the Kalukhali-Bhatiapara branch line of the Eastern Bengal Railway is suspended for the present and the booking of such traffic to and from the branch as had been stopped is being resumed with immediate effect.

THE MUSIC CONFERENCE

The Maharaja of Travancore declared open the 14th Music Conference at the Senate House, Madras, on December 22. The Maharani of Travancore, mother of the Maharaja, was also present.

An address was presented by the members of the Music Academy, Madras, to the Maharaja on the occasion. The Music Conference has been organised by the Music Academy in co-operation with the Indian Fine Arts Society.

The Maharaja in his speech said that the aims which they of the Music Conference had set before themselves were precisely those which also animated them in Travancore. They in Travancore were the inheritors of a great tradition and it was no small responsibility to hand on to succeeding generations the torch lit by Maharaja Swati Tirunal. But, in all artistic matters mutual exchange of thought and sympathetic criticism were of the utmost value, and he felt that they would not be asking in vain for these.

Following the opening of the Conference, the President, Mr. Vedanta Bhagavathar, delivered his Address.

TYAGARAJA CELEBRATION

A month's programme for celebrating the memory of Tyagaraja, the great singer and composer of South India, is a welcome feature of the season in Madras.

The celebrations commenced with the unveiling of a portrait of the saint and composer in the premises of the well known Rasika Ranjini Sabha, Mylapore.

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, who unveiled the portrait, mentioned the interesting fact that Tyagaraja and the Ruler of Travancore, Swati Tirunal, were contemporaries in the middle of the 19th century. The latter himself being a composer exchanged ideas on musical science with Tyagaraja. The Maharaja composed in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi, Urdu and Marathi, and his manuscripts were being discovered in Poona and Agra and are being collected. A school for the cultivation of music has been started and it is to be hoped that more of them will follow.

PENTANGULAR FINAL

In the Pentangular Cricket final at Bombay, held on December 24, between the Rest and the Muslims, the Rest were all out for 202 runs in their first innings.

There were two changes in each side, Masud Salauddin and Dilawar Hussain displaced Hakim and Chippa in the Muslim side, while Richards and A. C. Pereira stood down for A. K. Bhalerao and B. P. Kadam in the Rest's side.

The teams:—

Muslims: Wazir Ali (Captain), M. Salauddin, K. C. Ibrahim, Amir Elahi, Dilawar Hussain, K. S. Nasruddin, S. M. Kadri, Saeed Ahmed, Mushtaq Ali, Abbas Khan and Y. Sheikh. Reserves: S. Heptulla, U. R. Chippa and Daud Khan.

The Rest: J. Harris (Captain), M. Cohen, S. R. Arolkar, J. O. Gonsalves, A. K. Bhalerao, W. L. Mascarenhas, V. S. Hazare, E. Alexander, P. P. Fernandez, A. Fernandes and B. P. Kadam. Reserves: V. Alexander.

Umpires: Messrs. J. R. Patel and H. D. Billimoria.

CEYLON VS. MADRAS

Ceylon beat Madras by three wickets in one of the most exciting matches, played on Chepauk grounds, Madras. Ram Singh scored a brilliant century for Madras, though in vain.

Acknowledging the congratulations of a Madras Sporting reporter, S. S. Jayawickrama, the Ceylon Captain, prior to the departure of the Ceylon team for Calcutta, said that this was one of the most exciting matches he had played so far and that all the players enjoyed the match very much.

THE RANJI TROPHY

Madras beat Mysore by 8 wickets in the only innings played in the Inter-Provincial Cricket match in the South Zone for the Ranji Trophy. From 89 for 4 wickets, Madras rallied on a wicket which was none too encouraging for batsmen and hit up 174 for 7 passing Mysore's total 171 with 8 wickets to spare. This was mainly due to the steady batting of M. Swaminathan and M. J. Gopalan.

X-RAY PHOTOGRAPHS

X-ray photographs, a useful but hitherto expensive aid in diagnosing diseases and injuries, can now be made at a cost of about a penny apiece. A New York doctor has devised a method that employs a miniature 85-mm. camera fitted with an F/1.5 lens and enclosed within light-tight box almost three feet long. A shaft extends from the camera and is used to turn the film after each exposure, making it unnecessary to open the camera box. In use, the camera shutter is always left open, X-rays streaming from their source through the body of the patient and the light-proof box on to the supersensitive film. For viewing the developed film, a projector mounted on a wooden support magnifies the film image by projecting it into a paper screen for examination. The apparatus is expected to be of special value in making low-cost X-ray photographs of the human chest and abdomen.

ELEMENT 85

From Switzerland and from America it, is reported, that physicists have discovered a new chemical element, Number 85. The elements are numbered according to the electric charge on their nuclei. Element 1 is hydrogen, because it has a charge of 1 unit; at the other end of the scale is uranium, with a charge of 92 units and therefore known as element 92.

The discovery of element 85 completes the range of discovered elements from 1 to 92, though there is some doubt about number 61. The Swiss scientist has given the name of helvetium to the element he claims as number 85. The Americans so far have not named their find. They obtained the new substance which they believe is 85, by means of the instrument known as a cyclotron, from which they bombarded bismuth with particles charged with an energy of 82 million volts.

THE NEW 35-TON TANK

No known anti-tank gun can penetrate the thick hide of the new 35-ton tank now being used in the British army.

Britain pushing ahead fast with her output of tanks and men to man them in a terrific bid to make up the leeway in a type of warfare she originated and Germany developed.

"VOICE OF SATAN"—A WAR FILM

The "Voice of Satan" produced by Wadia Movietone from a story by Ezra Mir is a one reel war publicity film exposing the lies behind the German-Hindustani broadcasts.

The film opens with a family scene in a typical well-to-do house. Opinions in the household are divided on the subject of India participating in the war. One of the two sons explains the direness of India's plight should Britain lose the war, pointing his moral by reading out the passage from Hitler's "Mein Kampfe" which reveals that in his opinion Asiatics are only fit to be slave peoples. But the father says that according to German broadcasts, India would be better off under Nazi rule. The son then says that a friend of his who has escaped from Germany, will come in and tell them of his experiences in that country.

When the student arrives and tells the interested family exactly how he was brutally beaten by the Gestapo before appearing before the microphone, where he was handed his script ready written for him by Goebbels' Propaganda Department. To ensure that he read only what was written without any interpolations of his own, there were Gestapo men standing by with loaded revolvers and an interpreter.

When his shocked friends have heard his story, the father switches off the radio which is just beginning the German-Hindustani hour and the sad student wonders aloud if some other wretched compatriot is being ill-treated so that the Nazi propaganda machine can go grinding on. As a result of these disclosures, we leave the family with the two sons in uniform since they have passed their examinations for the Indian Air Force and are off on active service with the full consent of their parents.

THE FILM—BAGHI

The Madras Government, after perusing the suspension order of the Madras Board of Film Censors, have directed that the film entitled 'Baghi' produced by Sree Vishnu Cinetone Company, Bombay, and passed by the Bombay Board of Film Censors shall be deemed to be an uncertified film in the province of Madras.

MODERN MOTOR CAR DESIGN

"Modern automobile design may make an aesthetically pleasing car, but many of its features detract from a car's safety," said Dean A. Fales, Associate Professor of Automotive Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, at a meeting of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Steeply sloped windshields and rear windows are objectionable, because they gather more dirt and in some cases even cause double vision—interior reflections produce two images of a traffic light. They may even cause blinding reflections of the sun for drivers of other cars. Rear vision is so limited in many recent cars that backing becomes difficult. The large blind spots in the rear quarter prevent drivers from seeing overtaking cars.

The use of sealed beam headlights gives better illumination of the road at night, but by placing the driver closer to the road subjects him to increased glare.

He further observed "the lower cars give the driver a false sense of security and no passenger car can be built low enough that some drivers cannot leave the road and turn over. Seating positions in the older cars and busses and trucks give the driver better vision and enable better manoeuvring in congested traffic as well as place drivers out of the headlight glare zone".

CARS AND TYRES

The faster you drive your motor car, the shorter will be the life of the tyres—this is a summary of part of an address given recently by a tyre manufacturer to a group of engineers. One driver, he said, may get 85,000 miles from a set of tyres while another, using the same kind of tyres, gets only 5,000 miles of service. It was largely a question of speed.

According to his experience and the results of tests, front tyres lasted nearly half as long again, and rear tyres gave twice as much service at 55 m.p.h. than at 70 m.p.h. Too rapid acceleration and faulty driving around curves, in the opinion of this expert, were two of the chief factors responsible for the premature wearing out of tyres.

WORLD'S LONGEST AIR ROUTE

The longest commercial air service in the world, a continuous route of 17,853 miles, will be operated by British organisations directly the Newfoundland base is free from ice and able to accept the North Atlantic air link.

Meanwhile, Britain's great war-plane industry is to be made ready to be turned over to civil aviation as soon as peace comes. Firms producing large military types of aircraft have been instructed to keep constantly in mind the possibility of civil variants and, the Air Minister proposes to set up a strong civil aviation advisory committee to plan for the future while Britain is still at war.

Empire air services are carrying on without interruption by the war and have now come under the unified control of the newly established British Airway Corporation.

PLANE FIRE RESEARCH

One of the gravest of air perils—fire starting in a plane's motor—may be eliminated with an extinguisher under development. An automatic detector in each engine housing warns a pilot of the outbreak of fire by flashing a red lamp on the instrument panel. Simply by turning a small valve, the pilot releases a stream of carbon dioxide gas, carried in small steel bottles under high pressure. Piped to the engine, the fire-smothering gas escapes from tiny holes in a ring shape tube encircling the cylinders. After an oil fire had been allowed to burn for twenty seconds in a recent test, the gas extinguisher put out the flames in five seconds.

"WHIRLWIND"

A new British fighter plane named "Whirlwind" which, as Lord Beaverbrook revealed, is now in action, is one of the fastest planes in the world.

Details concerning this new fighter are still secret, but it is newer than the eight gun Spitfire which has a speed of 400 miles per hour and a "ceiling" of about five miles. The "Whirlwind" incorporates new features and may soon be as famous as the Spitfires and the Hurricanes.

TWELFTH INDUSTRIES CONFERENCE

The Twelfth Industries Conference was opened by H. E. the Governor of the United Provinces on the 17th of last month at Lucknow.

The Conference supported the proposal to send trade delegations to Africa, South America, Australia and New Zealand and such other countries as might be necessary for the purpose of discovering new markets or expanding the old ones, both in connexion with raw materials and manufactured goods.

The question of the supply of dyes for hand-loom and cottage industries was discussed, and it was decided that such Provinces and States as desired to participate in the Government's scheme for the distribution of dyes should put their requirements before the Government of India.

It had been urged by the representatives of Bombay that an institution something on the lines of the British Standard should be set up in India. The Conference considered, however, that so far as technical standardisation was concerned, it was not possible to set up any body during the war. In so far as commercial standardisation was concerned, however, the Conference thought that the matter should be examined in consultation with the industries concerned and the Export Advisory Council.

The Commerce Member, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, made a statement concerning the establishment and purpose of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and it was agreed by the Conference that there was no longer any necessity for the Industrial Research Council to continue in existence.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIES

"However may the opinion of the leaders differ on political issues, it is time enough that they should fully unite for the development of national industries," said Sir P. C. Ray in a statement to the United Press on the great opportunity presented to India by the war for developing her industries.

IRRIGATION IN INDIA

Crops worth Rs. 1,04,94,00,000 are being raised in British India on areas receiving State irrigation. From about 10,500,000 acres in 1878-79, the area annually irrigated by State Works alone has now risen to 32,498,000 acres over one-seventh of the total cultivated area in British India.

The total capital outlay on irrigation and navigation works amounts to over Rs. 1,50,28,00,000, the working expenses to Rs. 4,62,00,000, and gross annual revenue to Rs. 18,51,00,000, with a net return of 5'91 per cent.

There are some 240 irrigation schemes in operation in British India, of which 61 are of a major description. Nearly a third are classified as productive and the rest are unproductive, i.e., as works constructed primarily for the protection of tracts with precarious rainfall.

These are some of the facts revealed in the review of Irrigation in India for 1937-38.

Of the provinces with extensive irrigation works, the Punjab is easily the first with an irrigated area of 12,292,000 acres, Madras comes second with 7,565,000 acres followed by the United Provinces and Sind with about 5,000,000 acres each. But in the percentage of area irrigated to the total area sown, Sind leads with 89'1 followed by Punjab with 86'8, Madras with 20'5 and the N.-W. F. P. with 18'8.

As in the previous years, the Punjab got the largest return on capital invested in productive works, namely, 14'99 per cent. followed by N.-W. F. P. 11'3, Bombay with 9'4, Madras with 6'86, and the United Provinces with 5'3.

CANNED GRASS FOR COWS

Canned grass for cows during winter is the latest innovation in America.

Freshly mown grass is hustled through a silage cutter and dry ice is mixed with it as it goes into the cans. The ice cools the grass, changes it to gas, drives out the air and stops fermentation. Sliding rubber-edged tops settle down with the grass and allow the air to escape around their edges but prevent the entrance of outside air.

WORKERS' TRAINING

The Government of India, Labour Department, has, it is learned, now allotted quotas to various provinces to send candidates for technical training in England under the Bevin training scheme.

Bombay, Bengal and Madras have each been allotted 18 vacancies, the United Provinces 16, the Punjab 12, Bihar 10 and the Central Provinces 8.

It has been decided that the first batch of candidates should consist of 50 and that it should sail from India by the middle of next month. The selected candidates will be provided with an outfit in India, inter-class railway fare in addition to one rupee a day from the place of residence to place of embarkation, a subsistence allowance of Rs. 20 a month during the journey to and from England and an allowance sufficient to cover the cost of board and accommodation while under training in the United Kingdom, and in addition eight shillings a week.

It is further learned that the selection of candidates will be made by the National Service Labour Tribunals in consultation with the regional inspectors of technical training and large industrial employers including the Railway Administration. Candidates will be taken from the working classes, preferably from those in the engineering trade.

On their return to India, the men will be at the disposal of the National Service Labour Tribunals concerned, which will decide how best their services can be utilized.

TECHNICAL TRAINING IN INDIA

Arrangements are rapidly going forward with regard to the training of eight thousand technical workers in different selected institutions. From such details as are available, it seems that out of approximately one crore which had been sanctioned for the entire scheme, 88 lakhs will be spent on equipment of these institutions and 45 lakhs will represent the amount of stipends payable to apprentices while under training. The scales sanctioned are Rs. 20 a month for non-matriculates and Rs. 25 for matriculates.

NEW BROADCASTING HOUSE

A Broadcasting House is to be built in New Delhi as headquarters for the All-India Radio. The expenditure of approximately Rs. 9,80,000 for this purpose was sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee, which met in New Delhi on December 16 and 17, under the chairmanship of the Finance Member.

The need for the All-India Radio to have more extensive and properly equipped headquarters has become imperative with the expansion of the Delhi station and the setting up of the central news organisation and for the efficient working of the new 100 kilowatt transmitter for external broadcasts.

The new Broadcasting House will accommodate the office of the Station Director of the Delhi station, the central news organisation, the headquarters office and the installation and research department together with the studios and will do away with the necessity for hired accommodation.

OLDEST MS. OF VALMIKI RAMAYANA

The Nepal Government have made a gift of 1,500 photographs of a very ancient manuscript of the Ramayana of Valmiki to the International Academy of Indian Culture, Lahore.

It is said to be the oldest palm leaf manuscript in existence in India. It is dated 1075 Vikrama Samvat (1018 A.D.)

The photographs will now be utilised by the Academy in the preparation of an edition of this great national epic.

THE GENIUS OF SWATHI THIRUNAL

A notable event in the history of the Rasika Ranjani Sabha, Madras, occurred on December 25, when Her Highness the Maharani Sethu Parvathi Bai of Travancore unveiled the portrait of Maharaja Swathi Thirunal at the Rasika Ranjini Sabha, Mylapore, before a large and distinguished gathering of artistes and patrons of music.

BUDDHA VIHARA

Sir D. B. Jayatilaka, Home Minister, Ceylon, laid the foundation-stone, on December 22, before a large gathering, of Buddha Vihara and the Boudhaashrama to be erected on the site granted by the Government of Mysore in Gandhi Nagar, Bangalore.

The Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Ltd.

Speech delivered by the Chairman, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, at the 21st Ordinary General Meeting of the Company held on Thursday, the 12th December 1940, at "Scindia House", Ballard Estate, Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,

AS usual, I hope you will agree with me that the Report and the Accounts which have already been in your hands for some days past, should be taken as read.

Before I review the working of the year, I shall deal with a few items in the accounts. The amount of Rs. 44,000 being the face value of the bonus shares of the Eastern Bunkers, Ltd., has been credited to the Investments Reserve Account. That account, therefore, now stands at Rs. 5,50,787-12-8. The sum of Rs. 1,00,000 appropriated out of the profits of the last year, and the sum of Rs. 68,820 being the amount of the premia on the risk of 15 per cent. carried by the Company, were added to the Marine Insurance Fund. That Fund, therefore, now amounts to Rs. 11,17,456-12-4. The Company is now carrying, as stated in the Report, 20 per cent. of the marine risk. It is, therefore, essential that larger additions should be made to this Fund. In view of the necessity for making sufficient provisions for meeting the growing burden of taxation and the call in other directions, we have not been able to recommend the appropriation of any amount out of the profits to this Fund, during the year under review. A sum of Rs. 8,50,000 was credited to the Bad Debt Reserve Account as appropriation out of the profits of the last year. That amount was further increased by Rs. 2,02,505-18-10, being the amount transferred from the Interest Suspense Account to this account, and consequently, that account stands at present at Rs. 7,82,187-8-0. After crediting the sum of Rs. 12,85,278, of which Rs. 11,70,000 is the amount of depreciation provided for the fleet of the Company, about which I shall have to say something later, and after writing off the amount of Rs. 8,778, the Depreciation Fund now stands at Rs. 94,86,560.

The compensation which the Company had to pay, as already referred to in the

Report, to avert the threatened rate war in the Burma trade, by obtaining the control over the policy of the Company from which the threat emanated, and by becoming its Managing Agents, has been debited to the Coastal Competition, in the accounts of the Company. In addition to what has been stated in the Report, I might add, that the Bombay Steam decided to enter the Burma rice trade in October, 1937, and the Agents of that Company were authorised by its Directors, to "take whatever action they may consider necessary, to carry this decision into effect". They gave notice to terminate their Agreement with the B. I. Co. Sir Phiroze Sethna, one of the Directors of the Company, observed in January, 1938: The Bombay Steam Navigation Co. had, of course, to face a powerful combine represented by the Conference Lines, the British India Steam Navigation Co., The Scindia Steam Navigation Co., and the Asiatic Steam Navigation Co. 'The Bombay Steam, however, would put up a good fight.'

Both the B. I. and the Asiatic were concerned at the prospect of a rate war in the Burma trade, and although Sir George Campbell assured me, that "neither I nor the B. I. have in any respect given support to the intrusion of the Bombay Steam in the Burma trade nor have we any intention of doing so", the Bombay Steam continued to take effective steps for undermining the position of the Scindia Company in its important Burma trade. Shippers were approached and cargo was actually booked, and the Chairman of the Bombay Steam stated at its annual meeting in October 1938, that: Your Directors are now possessed of adequate data to enable your Company to enter the Indo-Burma trade, as soon as the situation warrants it. They are further assured of good response from the shippers as soon as your Company enters the trade, but they must necessarily retain discretion as to when it would be in the best interests of your Company to take this action.

You will, therefore, I have no doubt, agree with me, that the action which we took in obtaining the control over the policy of the Bombay Steam by becoming its Managing Agents, for safeguarding the vital interests of this Company, and

the compensation which we had to pay so that the threatened rate war may not take place, was far-sighted, and now that peace is not disturbed in that important trade from that quarter, the policy underlying that action has been fully vindicated. You will also be glad to learn that since the Company has been appointed the Managing Agents of the Bombay Steam, it has also established peace in the Konkan trade, and it is anticipated that the mutual co-operation that we have been able to promote amongst different national shipping companies operating in the coastal trade of India, is bound, in due course, to advance the interests of the national shipping industry and enable that industry to fight for the recognition of a national shipping policy, in their common interests in this country.

As regards the large amount standing to the credit and the debit of the unfinished voyages, as compared to similar credit and debit in the last year's accounts, I have to point out to you, that the large credit is mainly due to the comparatively larger quantity of coal and salt carried by these voyages and the higher rate of freight collected on the cargo thus carried. It is also due to the higher rate of freight at which rice and general cargo were carried during that period of the year. The longer lead of the voyages and the higher cost of operations are also responsible for the larger debit under this head. It is not necessary for me to add that the difference between the credit and the debit does not represent the profit on the voyages concerned.

You will have also noticed from the Balance Sheet that the market value of the investments of the Company showed a difference of Rs. 6,78,154, between the cost price and the market value. According to the rates obtaining now, however, the market value is higher than the cost value, by about Rs. 88,520.

The investment in gold and silver has unfortunately created a wrong impression in certain quarters. As pointed out in the Report, the financial and the international situation was extremely grave and uncertain at the end of May last. The Company had nearly Rs. 97,00,000 invested in Treasury Bills and placed at deposits with different Banks. It was, therefore, considered advisable to have a variation of the

investments and as decided by the Directors, a part of the cash funds of the Company was invested in gold and silver to secure the funds of the Company. It was considered the right step to take during the critical period, through which all were passing. Since then the Company's investment in silver has been sold and the Company has come out almost square in connection with that investment.

I shall now review the working of the Company during the year under report. Two outstanding factors which have affected the working of the Company, during the year under review, are the difficulties which shipping had to face as a result of the international situation caused by the war, and the rising cost of operations in the running of the ships.

Ships had to deviate from their normal course and they, therefore, took a longer time than before, to complete their voyages. Some of the ports on the coast were occasionally closed to shipping. This also lengthened the normal voyages of the ships. Deviation and delays added to the normal cost of running the ships. There was also a sudden and unexpected drop in the volume of exports of rice from Rangoon, during the busiest part of the year. This also caused delay in the quick turning round of the ships. The adverse effect thus caused on the economic working of the Company, was considerably mitigated by two fortunate circumstances in the situation, namely, the timely employment of the steamers for the carriage of coal and salt in a larger quantity than before, and the good despatch which the steamers obtained at some of the ports on the coast.

I have remarked that the growing cost of operations in the running of the steamers was another serious difficulty which shipping had to face, during the year under review. The Company had to cover its ships for war risk insurance. The expenditure under this head remained at a reasonable level during the first four months of the war, but it began to rise from January last. It went up from sh. 1/6 per cent. to sh. 10 per cent. and then to sh. 20 per cent. and its present rate is sh. 40 per cent. The increase in the wages of Officers and Crew also made a substantial addition to the cost of running the ships. As I observed in my speech last year, the continuous and the efficient service

which the crew had been giving, fully justified a permanent increase in their basic pay. This pay was increased by 20 per cent. from the 16th September, 1939. A war bonus to the extent of 20 per cent. on their pre-war salary was sanctioned from the 1st November 1939, and it will remain in force throughout the period of the war. Only very lately a further increase has been made in their basic pay by 5 per cent., and a further war bonus, also of 5 per cent., has been sanctioned. I have always held that the services which our Indian seamen render deserve better appreciation, and I believe that this 25 per cent. increase in their basic pay is fully justified. I welcome in this connection the appreciative remarks, made the other day, by Mr. Ernest Bevin, British Minister for Labour, when he said:

I am not going to allow them to be called 'lascars' any more. They are Indian Seamen. If you get rid of the term 'lascar', you will get rid of the conception that they are just cheap human fodder.

May I say that not only has Mr. Bevin shown by his observations a human understanding of the problems of the Indian seamen, but he has also given them their proper place in the economy of British-shipping; and may I commend them for the sympathetic consideration of, and appropriate action by, the British Shipowners, to whom the services of the Indian seamen have proved to be of the greatest benefit during all these years?

The wage bill of the officers and engineers, also, has increased from time to time. With the increase in their basic salary of 20 per cent. from the 1st September 1939, and the good service bonus equivalent to a monthly salary, from the 1st September 1939, and certain other facilities granted to them, their annual wage bill has gone up by nearly 88 per cent. War risk money of Rs. 87 per month for officers and Rs. 184 per month for Captains was sanctioned from the 15th June, 1940. The result has been that the rise in the wages of officers and engineers will amount to about 68 per cent. from the beginning of the next financial year. I have no doubt, you will agree with me, that all this expenditure is justified in view of the fact that the officers and the engineers in our fleet, of whom 65 per cent. are Indians, as well as the seamen, are maintaining the high traditions of the

sea service and are helping in the running of the ships as efficiently in the days of war, as in the times of peace.

The growing expenditure of the Company, under the heads referred to above and in other directions, and the adverse factors which affected the economic working of the Company, already mentioned by me, necessitated increase in the basic rate of freight on the carriage of rice from Rangoon to Bombay, from time to time. It was increased from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12-6 from the middle of September 1939, to Rs. 15-6, from the beginning of January, 1940, and to Rs. 17 from the beginning of May. This timely and appropriate increase in the basic rate of freight, coupled with the carriage of coal and salt at fairly economic rates, as contrasted with the comparatively low rates at which these commodities were carried in the past, largely helped the Company in obtaining the results which appear in the Balance Sheet of the Company.

There is one circumstance of supreme importance, however, to which I consider it my duty to draw your special attention. The results which appear in the Balance Sheet have been arrived at after providing only 5 per cent. as depreciation on the original cost of the steamers. You are all aware of the tremendous rise of over 100 per cent. in the cost of the replacement of ships. It is, therefore, obvious that if proper provision for depreciation is to be made, it should not be less than 10 per cent. on the original cost of the steamers. I may here point out to you that British shipping has recognised the imperative need of making provision for depreciation on the basis of the replacement cost of the steamers. This view of the British shipping industry was expressed in the following striking observations which Lord Essendon, the recognised authority on British shipping, made in February last, at the Annual Meeting of the Chamber of Shipping. His Lordship said:

The cost of building has already increased to something like 50 per cent. during the last few months, and it is quite certain that there will be a further increase before the war is over. After the last war, prices increased two or three times. Such depreciation as owners have been able to provide in respect of existing ships has been based on their original cost, "but at the enhanced cost of replacement, obviously, these depreciation reserves will be hopelessly inadequate, and if we are not allowed to make earnings sufficient to

provide fully for replacement—which involves also the question of employment—the ultimate decline of the Mercantile Marine is inevitable."

I wish it was possible for us to provide depreciation on the fleet of the Company on the basis of its replacement cost. The results of working of the Company, however, I regret to say, do not allow us to make such a provision which I consider is quite imperative.

There is yet another special aspect of this important question of depreciation, to which I must draw your serious attention at this stage. You are aware that 4 per cent. on the original cost of vessels was fixed as the rate of depreciation in the United Kingdom. It has been recognised that climatic and other considerations justify a higher rate of depreciation in India than the one which obtains in the United Kingdom on similar assets. The rate of depreciation on ships in India was, therefore, fixed at 5 per cent. on the original cost of ships as against the rate of 4 per cent. fixed in the United Kingdom. The rate of depreciation of 4 per cent. was, however, increased in the United Kingdom by 1/10th, by Section 18 of the Finance Act 1932. In other words, it was increased from 4 per cent. to 4.40 per cent. This increased rate of 4.40 per cent. was further increased by Section 22 of the Finance Act 1938. The result is that depreciation at 4.80 per cent. on the original cost of ships has been calculated in the United Kingdom from 1938, and onwards. All these years the rate of depreciation was, however, not increased in India and even today, depreciation is calculated only at 5 per cent. on the prime cost of vessels. Shipping is an international industry. The reasons which justified an increase in the rate of depreciation in the United Kingdom, between 1932 and 1938, would justify a similar increase in the rate of depreciation in India also. It is, however, an irony of fate, that while all our important Statutes are modelled on the Acts enacted by the British Parliament, the privileges which are granted under the British Acts, do not find their place in the Indian Statutes, but they are always loaded with the burdens which the British Acts embody. I want you, therefore, to note that there ought to have been an increase in the rate of depreciation on Indian ships during the last decade, on the same basis as the increase in the United

Kingdom, after making due adjustments for climatic and other considerations. As this has not been done, the Indian shipping industry is placed at a disadvantage as compared to the British shipping industry which has been seriously competing with it in India's maritime trades.

During the last war, the normal rate of depreciation on ships in the United Kingdom was increased by 50 per cent. As the cost of replacement has risen very high and is likely to rise still higher in the future, British shipowners demand a similar increase in the rate of depreciation during the continuance of this war also. I am now authoritatively informed that in response to the demand of British shipowners 6 per cent. on the prime cost of the vessel has now been fixed as the rate of depreciation on British ships. Profits on which income-tax and the excess profits tax will have to be paid in the chargeable accounting period will also be arrived at after providing for depreciation on the original cost of vessels at 6 per cent. Unless similar action is taken in this country; that is to say, unless the rate of depreciation is raised from 5 per cent. to 7½ per cent. on the prime cost of vessels in India, Indian shipping industry will be placed at a serious disadvantage. If depreciation is allowed only at 5 per cent. in the chargeable accounting period for the purpose of determining the profits on which income-tax and the excess profits tax will have to be paid, instead of at 6 per cent., as is now allowed in the United Kingdom, and instead of at 7½ per cent., as it should be allowed in India, not only will it impose an unjustifiable burden on the Indian shipping industry, but it will also impair its staying power and its competitive strength. We have, therefore, decided to submit a representation to the Central Board of Revenue on this subject, and we hope that that Board will recognise the justice of our claims and will take such appropriate action as is necessary for that purpose.

The point, however, which I wish to emphasise, is that had we debited depreciation at 10 per cent. on the original cost of vessels, not only would the profits shown by the Company have considerably dwindled, but the Company would also not have been able to declare any dividend, after making the necessary

provision for the growing burden of taxation imposed on the industry in this country. As the profits stand today, we have also not been able to make any provision, as I have stated above, for increasing our marine insurance fund, in view of the 20 per cent. risk that we have been carrying ourselves. Under the circumstances, you will agree with me, that the working results of the Company have to be looked at in their proper perspective and that what we have been able to achieve is after all not unsatisfactory in view of the times and circumstances through which we have been passing.

You will naturally expect me to give you some idea as to what the future has in store for us. It has been stated in the Report that the full effect of the rise in the cost of operations will be reflected in the working of the coming year. I need not add that it is not easy, when we are passing through critical times, to forecast the extent of the rise in the cost of operations in all the important items of the Company's expenditure. Since the Report was published, as I have stated above, an increase of 5 per cent. in the basic pay and a 5 per cent. in the bonus to be given to the crew has already been made. It is estimated that there will be a rise of about Rs. 7,50,000 in the wage bill of the floating staff, in the coming year, as compared with that bill before the outbreak of the war. I cannot say how far either the coal bill or the expenses under surveys and repairs are likely to go up in the coming year. The marine risk and the war risk on the fleet of the Company—even if the rate of premium on war risk is not increased—are estimated to add about Rs. 28,50,000 to the expenditure of the coming year, as compared to what we have spent under those heads during the year under review. It is difficult to say how the terms of requisition will affect this cost of insurance.

Some kind friend has remarked that I am taking a pessimistic view of the situation. I may say that I have always been optimistic. I, however, consider it my duty to place the facts as they are before you, and leave it to you to draw your own conclusions. Apart from the increase in the cost of operations of the Company, about which I have given you

some indications in the remarks that I have made, there are still two other important factors which are bound to have a far reaching effect on the working of the Company. A ship of the Company was commandeered just after the outbreak of the war, for the purpose of naval defence. It is to be regretted that although it is over 12 months since that ship was taken, neither the rate of hire nor the amount to be paid for the ship, in case it is lost, have been settled yet. Since the closing of the financial year under review, eight more ships of the Company have been requisitioned by the Government of India. In spite of several discussions and representations, we do not yet know how the Government of India intend to compensate us for depriving us of the services which those ships were giving to the Company. We have pointed out to the Government of India that it will be a case of grave injustice to, and an unprecedented misfortune of the Indian shipping industry, if they were to fix the amount of compensation to be paid for these requisitioned ships, on the same basis on which it is fixed by the British Ministry of Shipping for British ships. We have emphasised the fact, that the conditions under which Indian shipping has to struggle for its existence and to fight for its growth, are strikingly different from those under which British shipping prospers under the powerful patronage and protection of its own national Government. British Shipowners have expressed their keen disappointment at the rates of hire which are to be paid to them by the British Ministry of Shipping for their requisitioned ships. They have, however, reconciled themselves to that position because they have to fight for their country and because they are authoritatively assured that when war comes to an end, and peace is established, such financial assistance will be given by the British Parliament to British shipping as will enable the British mercantile marine, to maintain itself "in adequate strength and in a position of full competitive efficiency". I have given the details of the enormous amount of financial assistance which Britain has given or proposes to give to British shipping, called from authoritative sources, in an article which I have recently contributed to the Bombay Investors' Year Book, published by the well-known House of Messrs. Devkaran Nanjee & Co., to which, you will

permit me, to invite your kind attention. British shipping is considered as a great national asset, by the Government of the United Kingdom. Neither is Indian shipping looked upon as a national asset by the Government of India, nor is Indian shipping assured of any financial help, even at the end of the war, so that India may be able to carry the major portion of her maritime trades in her own national ships. In view of these glaringly dissimilar circumstances existing in the two countries, and having regard to the national outlook in connection with the British shipping industry which exists in the United Kingdom—an outlook which is entirely absent at the seat of Government in this land—you will agree with me that it will be preposterous to impose burdens on Indian shipping which Britain may have imposed on British ships, or to expect Indian shipping to undergo such sacrifices as Britain can justifiably ask British ships to make. The trend of discussions which we had so far, with the representatives of the Government of India, on this subject, fills us, however, with grave apprehensions, and we do not know whether Indian shipping will get the justice which it really deserves. Both the ships which have been commandeered for the purpose of naval defence, as well as the ships, which have been requisitioned for carrying men, materials and munitions, have been playing a very important part in the prosecution of the War. We, however, do not know if the Indian shipping industry will even be allowed to maintain a standard of profits which other industries engaged on war work have been making in this country. Well may we feel helpless—I was going to say almost desperate—and be compelled to give expression to the bitter truth that Indian industries, when they come into clash with the British vested interests,—which receive all the necessary protection from their own Government, and are always able to exact all the unwarranted patronage from our Government also—have hardly any friend in the Government of India to protect them, to encourage them and to ensure their prosperity, growth and development.

It is, therefore, impossible for me to tell you how the earnings of the Company will be affected in the coming year by the requisitioning of the ships of the Company by the Government of India. I can only

hope that the Defence of India Rules under which these ships are requisitioned will not be used as if they were dealing with the offence of the Indian shipping industry, which has been empanelled for the prosecution of the war.

Apart from the policy of requisitioning the ships of the Company by the Government of India affecting the working results of the Company, in the ensuing year, it will also seriously disable the Company from maintaining regularly its usual services and vitally affect its ability to carry the quota of the trade, to which it is entitled. This policy of the Government of India of empanelling a large number of ships of the very small Indian mercantile marine, for the purpose of the war, is in singular contrast with the solicitude and concern, which the British Ministry of Shipping and their representative have shown in enabling the British shipping companies to carry their quota of the coastal trade of India, despite the fact that all the British ships have been requisitioned for the purposes of war by His Majesty's Government. These British ships based on India, have built up large fortunes for their companies, by dominating the coastal trade of India, at the cost and sacrifice of the development of the national shipping industry, for decades past. The Government of India would have been, therefore, justified if they had, in the first instance, requisitioned all these British ships for meeting the requirements of the war, before they commandeered the services of the small Indian mercantile marine, on whose services, for obvious reasons, they could have no moral claims whatsoever. The Government of India, however, did nothing of the kind. On the contrary, they appointed a European as the Indian Shipping Adviser to safeguard the interests of these British shipping companies, and to ensure, that they were able to carry their share of the coastal trade of this country. Let not the Government of India, however, forget the truth of experience that while absence of encouragement might lead to philosophic resignation, actual disservice will create serious disaffection if not desperation.

The second serious factor which will affect the working of the Company in the coming year is the new policy of

discrimination in favour of British ships and against Indian ships, recently inaugurated by the Government of India. Two Notifications were issued by them in September last: Not only are the movements of the ships on the Indian Register to be controlled, but they are also to be deprived of their freedom to fix the rates of freight and fares as they like. These Notifications do not apply to the ships on the British Register plying in the coastal trade of India. They will be free to go where they like and quote such rates as they please. As if this discrimination between Indian shipping and British shipping was not a sufficient punishment to the Indian shipping in this country, further humiliation is heaped upon national ships by discriminating between the ships on the Indian Register controlled by Indian interests, and the ships on the Indian Register controlled by British interests. The ships of the Mogul Line are on the Indian Register but are controlled by British interests. They are regularly employed in the trade between Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi and Red Sea ports. The Notifications issued by the Government of India do not, however, restrict their movement or control their power to fix their own rates of freight and fares. As a result of several representations, the Notification in regard to the freedom of fixing the rates of freight and fares has been cancelled; but the Government of India have intimated to the Indian shipping companies that they propose to issue a fresh Notification, and it is difficult to say how the earning capacity of the purely Indian shipping companies will be affected by this new policy of determination. I do not know why the Government of India are so anxious to control the rates of freight and fares to be charged by national ships only, when even His Majesty's Government have not controlled the rates of freight and fares to be charged by the ships, already requisitioned by them. I am told that the Government of India take these steps in the interests of the consumers. May I inquire, in all humility, whether the Government of India would watch the interests of the consumers when the goods are carried by national ships only by controlling the rates of freight to be charged by those national ships, but leave them to be looked after by the Almighty God, when these goods are carried by British ships,

and when those ships have increased the rates by over 100 per cent?

I have given you some idea as to how the policy of requisitioning and how the policy of discriminating against Indian ships, both in regard to their movements and their freedom to fix the rates of freight are likely to affect the working of the Company. We are, however, urging upon the Government of India with all the earnestness of which we are capable, to do justice to Indian shipping in both these matters. The manner and the extent to which the Government of India will respond to our fervent appeals will affect the lights and shades of the picture that I have drawn before you. One or two redeeming features of the situation, however, are that the Company has been able to lift coal and salt during the first half of the year at fairly good economic rates, and it is expected that there will be a brisk movement of rice from Burma to India during the busy season of the next year. I can only assure you that your Directors will continue to watch and safeguard the interests of the Company with constant vigilance and discerning care, and will lose no opportunity to press the claims of the Indian shipping industry on the Government of India during the anxious times through which all of us are passing at present. ...

I shall now refer to the latest position in regard to the Company's participation in the carriage of pilgrims between India and Jeddah. As the attitude of the Government of India towards the Scindia Company had made it impossible for that Company to resume its pilgrim service even during the current Haj season, a report has been circulated by interested parties that the Scindia Company has retired from the pilgrim trade, and has been employing its ships in other lucrative business. Let me assure you and the Muslim public, that the Scindia Company has not gone out of the pilgrim service and does not propose to get out of it, but it has been unfortunately driven out of that trade at present. The communiqué issued by the Government of India last year gave rise to a misunderstanding that the reason why the Scindia Company did not berth its ships in the pilgrim trade was, that the Government did not agree to its proposal for an increase in the rate of passage fare to be charged to the

pilgrims. Although there was no justification for this impression and although I had made the position of the Company quite clear, in my speech last year, I may add that with a view, to prevent any misunderstanding whatsoever on this subject, the Company, in response to the letter of the Government of India, wrote to the Government that the Scindia Company would carry the pilgrims to the Hedjaz during the present Haj season at such fares as would be fixed by the Government of India. There was no question of the Company's employing its ships in other lucrative business. As you are all aware, the S. S. "El Madina," the most popular ship in the pilgrim traffic, has been requisitioned by the Government of India. The Company, as I say, is practically driven out of that service. The Government of India have told the Company, that it was impractical to allot any quotas to Companies interested in the trade. The Government maintained that it would also not be possible to allow the Companies to determine the number of ships that they could send to the Hedjaz. The Government decided that the policy of fixing the number of ships would be entirely controlled by them. The Government themselves would, therefore, determine the questions as to the number of ships that would be sent and as to the Companies whose ships would be allowed to go. Instead of recognising and implementing the just claims of national shipping for participating in the Haj service, it was called upon by the Government of India to agree in advance, to their policy of control, the implications of which, it was difficult to understand. The result was that the Company was practically driven out of the Haj service. The Government carried on negotiations with the Mogul line alone. It will be the ships of the Mogul Line that will be sent to the Hedjaz. Although this, in itself, is a serious grievance of the national shipping industry against the Government of India, their recent action of subsidizing the ships of the Mogul Line controlled by British interests when the Scindia, a national concern, was compelled to remain out of the field—another glaring instance of their recent policy of discrimination against national shipping—has only added insult to injury. "Let me not be misunderstood in any way. I welcome every step that the Government of India have

taken for providing our Muslim brethren with such facilities as might enable them to perform their pilgrimage in these anxious days. I have no quarrel with that policy. I also recognise that State aid to protect the interests of national shipping is necessary. I would welcome that policy, as I have demanded it all these years. State aid to national shipping is one thing, but State aid to ships controlled by British interests, at the cost of national shipping, is altogether a different proposition." Last year the rise in the cost of operations did not concern Government of India in any way, when the rates of passage fares for pilgrims were fixed. The reason was that the Scindia Company was also in the field. This year, when the Government of India knew that the Scindia ships were not to be sent to the Hedjaz, negotiations were carried only with the Mogul Line and they decided not only to raise the passage fares by 18 per cent. but they promised the Mogul Line to give them a subsidy—a substantial financial aid for reimbursing them the cost of war insurance and all other expenses which they might incur by abnormal delays etc. during their voyages under the present circumstances. "It is against this policy of discrimination that we have protested and shall continue to protest. Such an unwarranted, unjust, and unnatural treatment is not going to scare away any national shipping from a field of service, which we maintain, belongs to India and Indian shipping, as a matter of right."

Let me now turn to our project for the establishment of a Shipbuilding Yard in India. It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction to your Directors and myself that you readily and willingly responded to our call and oversubscribed the sum of Rs. 75 lakhs which was required for financing the project and for strengthening the financial resources of the Company. Need I assure you how grateful we are to you all, brother shareholders, for the confidence which you have shown in us, and the co-operation which you have given to us, in the starting of a new industry which was once the glory of India. We are told that Indian capital is shy and Indians lack the spirit of enterprise. You have effectively disproved by your co-operation and help the hollowness of these charges. Shipbuilding industry was not assured of

any protection—discriminating or stimulating—from the Government of India. We all knew that we had to stand on our own legs. The ready flow and quick investment of such a large capital at a short notice, in this industry, will remain, therefore, as an important landmark in the industrial development of India by Indians themselves.

I told you in my speech last February, that the sympathetic interest which was evinced by the Commerce Member in our proposal and the readiness with which he was good enough to inspect the site for our proposed Yard at Calcutta filled me with hopes of the possibilities of good progress in the near future. Little did I then realise, that even the active interest of an Indian Commerce Member will be of no avail in making the European Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust look at our project from a broad national point of view or realise the urgent need of establishing a Shipbuilding Yard in India, even when ships after ships were lost by the action of the enemy. Negotiations lingered on. I was told that Sir Thomas Elderton would be called at Delhi and all questions connected with the obtaining of a site at Calcutta would be satisfactorily settled. I lived in hope. The climate at Delhi was becoming warm. I understood Sir Thomas Elderton would surely respond to the request of the Commerce Member and see him in the cool heights of Simla. Sir Thomas never came. Most valuable time was lost. I was losing all hope for starting the Yard at Calcutta. Optimistic as I was, my patience was exhausted. I turned to Vizagapatam for a site and am glad to inform you that as a result of my conversations in Simla with the Departments of Commerce and Communications, the Company was able to obtain a site for the establishment of a Shipbuilding Yard at Vizagapatam. I lost no time in proceeding to that port and completed all our preliminary investigations. You will be happy to learn that our choice of Vizagapatam for our Shipbuilding project was endorsed by the Company's Consulting Engineers, Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners. A senior representative of that firm, specially came out to India, and as stated in the Report, the site that was selected has been finally approved by Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners, from every point of view. We have taken

possession of the site thus selected, and are now proceeding with the laying of the foundations of the two slips with which we have decided to make a start; in accordance with the advice and direction which we have been receiving from Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners. Orders for machinery of the value of about Rs. 5 lakhs and timber of the value of about Rs. 4 lakhs have already been placed. We have thus made the beginning for the building up of an industry which India urgently needs. We are, however, fully conscious of the great difficulties that lie ahead.

We are experiencing unusual difficulties, as stated in the Report, in obtaining steel from India or from other countries, and importing machinery and technical personnel from the United Kingdom or from other sources. I was advised, when I was in Simla, that it would be better, under the existing circumstances, to secure the bodily transfer of a Shipbuilding Yard from England to India. I am glad to remark that I was encouraged in this move by the Government of India. Strenuous efforts were made to secure such a Shipbuilding Yard in the United Kingdom. I was told that His Majesty's Government would not allow the shifting of such a Yard from England to India, unless ships to be built in such a Yard in India were placed at their disposal. I assured the Government of India that if such a Shipbuilding Yard were allowed to be transferred from England to India, the Company would place the ships to be built in that Yard, on reasonable terms, at the disposal of His Majesty's Government, during the period of the war. It is a matter, therefore, of keen disappointment and deep regret, that the Board of Trade do not consider our project and our assurances as helpful for the purpose of the war, and are not, therefore, prepared to release such a Yard, if obtainable, for being transferred from England to this country. Mr. Ronald Cross, British Minister of Shipping, in the broadcast speech which he made in August last welcomed the starting of Shipbuilding Yards in the Dominions and elsewhere. He remarked:

Our resources are great but they cannot be too great to meet the needs of the future, and we should frankly welcome all means of increasing our shipping, by the aid of the shipyards of the Dominions or elsewhere.

Great Britain has already placed orders for the building of 18 large merchant vessels in Canada. Australia with its national policy of subsidizing its own shipbuilding industry, is going ahead with its shipbuilding programme. Mr. Cameron, Minister for Navy, announced in July last, that Australia was concentrating on war-ship construction for Britain. It is stated that the construction of Shipyards in Turkey will be entrusted to a British enterprise, and the cost of about 2 million pounds sterling is payable in accordance with the terms of Britain's credit to Turkey. In view of Great Britain thus doing all it can to help the Shipbuilding projects in other parts of the Empire and even in the foreign countries, why does it look upon the project of a Shipbuilding Yard in India with suspicion, if not hostility? May I, in this connection, recall the wise words uttered by the Vice-Admiral Herbert Fitzherbert in his broadcast speech in August last? He remarked:

It is obvious to me and, I think to a great many other people that the sooner a Shipbuilding industry is started, the better for India. That all these are present in India is a fact that cannot be denied.

I can only hope, that such wise counsel, coming from one who is responsible for the defence in the eastern waters, will not be lost upon His Majesty's Government, and I yet entertain the hope, that self-interest, if not the spirit of a solid Empire maritime policy, will make the authorities in England take a just and proper view of the situation and not place difficulties in the path of this Company in going ahead with its project for the building of ships in this country.

After all my recent conversations at Simla and after the significant appeal of the Vice-Admiral referred to above, I must confess, that I was not prepared for the chilling announcement made by Sir Alan Lloyd in the Council of State on the 29th November, that

Government are not proposing to encourage actively the merchant shipbuilding industry in India as part of their war effort.

It is really a great tragedy in the relations between India and England, that while England welcomes and encourages the building of ships in the Dominions and even in foreign countries, in her own interests, both His Majesty's Government and the Government of India who have to echo the voice of their masters across

the seas, for protecting the British vested interests or creating new British interests in this country, do all they can to discourage the building of ships in India, and look upon all efforts in that direction not as 'part of war effort' as they do when the Dominions and other countries are concerned.

This will give you some idea of the insuperable difficulties that we have to face in building ships in this country. With faith in our mission and with the support and sympathy of you, brother shareholders, we shall continue to put forth our most strenuous efforts to achieve the object on which we, all of us, have set our heart and God willing, before long, India will be building ships in our own Shipbuilding Yard owned, controlled and managed by Indians themselves.

I shall now say a word or two in regard to the Tripartite Agreement which vitally affects our national shipping. I told you last year how I had to run from India to England, from Bombay to Calcutta and thence to Delhi and Simla, and back to Bombay, in my efforts to remove the shackles and fetters of Indian shipping and to secure for it the freedom to grow and expand in India's maritime trades. I did not succeed. I could not succeed. We had no other alternative. We were compelled to give notice for the termination of the Agreement. In the meantime, the war broke out, I was told by common friends that I should allow the Commerce Member to do his duty by national shipping. I should, therefore, give further time to him to do so.

One further year has passed. I have seen the Commerce Member several times at Calcutta, at Bombay, at Delhi and at Simla. No progress was made. I, therefore, interviewed the Viceroy on the 21st June last, and sent to His Excellency a long telegram on the 19th July. In the meantime, the position of Indian shipping was going from bad to worse. Ships were requisitioned. Shipbuilding industry was not encouraged. Further restrictions were imposed on the movements of Indian ships only. I was told that the Commerce Member was in communication with the Principals of the British Companies in England and was awaiting their reply. Optimistic as I am, I am again living in hope. In view of the above position we have not taken any action to terminate

the Agreement. "The revision of this Tripartite Agreement is a question of supreme importance to all of us. It is now over 20 years since we are restricted only to the coastal trade of India, Burma and Ceylon. We cannot, therefore, in the new Agreement, accept less than 50 per cent. as our share in India's coastal and adjacent trades. National shipping has not been allowed to participate in India's overseas trades all these years. That shipping can no longer agree to keep out of those trades. It must have its proper place and its legitimate share of those trades also. India hopes that the Commerce Member has now heard from those British Shipping Companies from England and that he will rise equal to the occasion and do his best for helping the cause of national shipping."

Some critics have observed that I should not press for the claims of national shipping during the period of the war. Whatever the motive of such kind friends, I must say that I cannot share their views. Others have advised that I should wait till the proposed offer for more power at the Centre materialises, and press forward my claims even during the war. The fate of Indian industries is not to hang on the passing vagaries of expected constitutional advance or threatened political set-backs. I was prepared to go to the farthest limit possible and was agreeable to settle the terms of the Agreement now, but to bring them into force at the end of the war. I became as reasonable as it was possible for me to be, without sacrificing the interests of national shipping. If it is possible for His Majesty's Government to declare their intentions, during the course of the war, as to what the constitutional status of India should be at the end of the war—whether it was acceptable to India or not is another story—I wonder what difficulties there could be for the Commerce Member to arrange for an Agreement between the British shipping interests and the national shipping interests, which might begin to operate when peace is established.

It was only the other day that the Secretary of State, eulogising the efforts of the Eastern Group Conference, remarked that

the Delhi Conference has been laying for India the foundations of increased industrial and defensive power which are essential conditions to-day of true self-government.

If that is so, how can India lay the foundations of true self-government without a national Navy to defend her shores, and without a national mercantile marine to shape her national economic policy and to serve as a second line of defence? Whatever may be the outcome of the Eastern Group Conference and the so-called pooling of the resources of those parts of the Empire, which met at Delhi, India would never agree to the enunciation of a policy which would prevent her from establishing and developing her own key and defence industries or which would militate against India's industrial development on national lines. India has to guard herself against the possible danger of a further intrusion of foreign capital and against non-Indian enterprises further exploiting India's resources. The timely warning given in wise and pregnant words, in response to a question about national industries owned and controlled by Indians, by Mr. Jehangir R. D. Tata, who presides over the great House of Tatas and controls the capital of the people entrusted to that House exceeding Rs. 62 crores, deserves repetition. He said:

Indian industry will, however, have to face competition not only from foreign countries but also from foreign owned or controlled industries entrenched in this country, under the shelter of protective tariffs. The growth of such foreign controlled interests is a serious threat to India's industrial progress and it is all the more necessary, therefore, that Indian enterprise should be given every possible encouragement to build up national industries in the true sense, and to retain in Indian hands, the control of country's industrial economy.

It is, therefore, clear that so far as shipping industry is concerned, what India really and urgently needs, is a Merchant Navy owned, controlled and managed by Indians, able to carry India's overseas trades. The Indian mercantile community has been urging for the building up of such an Indian Merchant Navy all these years. National economic policy makes it imperative for India to bring such a Merchant Navy into early existence. Even the Secretary of State has now made it clear, that it is essential for true self-government that India should lay the foundations of the defensive power which, you will all agree with me, in view of the geographical position of India and

her position in Asia, it is impossible to develop without a proper Navy of defence and a proper Navy of supply. Look at the question from any point of view and we all will be driven to the inevitable conclusion, that India must have a Merchant Navy of her own. How can India build such a Merchant Navy when Indian shipping companies are yet working under the fetters and restrictions which are imposed upon them by such agreements as the Tripartite Agreement? Unless that Agreement is revised and Indian shipping is allowed to grow and expand as a free economic unit of this great country, we shall not be able to achieve the object which India has in view, and which the Secretary of State is of the opinion that we cannot achieve, without building up all our sea power. That is the reason why I have attached the greatest importance to this vital question of the revision of the Tripartite Agreement, for which I have been working so strenuously for the last 18 months and more. Let not the British shipping interests forget, that they will have to count on the goodwill of the Indians in general, and the Indian shippers in particular, in coming to an agreement with the Indian shipping interests. May I in this connection recall with pride and satisfaction what the President of the Bombay 'Rice Merchants' Association, Sheth Devji Tokersey, remarked in January last. He said:

In fact I am voicing the feeling of you all, Gentlemen, when I say that we, the Merchants of India, are awaiting the day, when the Scindia flag will be regularly seen in the far away waters,

on the coasts of Africa and the Far East, nay, in the seven seas of the World; and that the Indians will have the privilege of visiting and trading with the different ports of the World under the National Flag.

That is the goal which we are all anxious to reach, and I am sure, that with your usual sympathy, support and encouragement, we shall march forward with courage and determination, and shall have either a Tripartite Agreement which recognizes our rights, or shall have to work without such an Agreement, shaping our destiny as we consider best in the interests of India, and in the interests of a great Key Industry--the Indian Shipping Industry of the future.

Before I conclude, let me express my deep satisfaction for the very able and efficient manner in which both the staff afloat and ashore have carried on their duties throughout the year. The work of the Company has been growing. The Company has also to look after the work of the other shipping companies of which it has become the Managing Agents. All this has added to the strain of work on your senior Officers, and the fact that they and all their other colleagues have discharged their duties so strenuously and so cheerfully entitles them to the thanks of the Company, which, I have no doubt, you would permit me to offer them, on your behalf.

With these words, Gentlemen, I beg to move that the Directors' Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended the 30th June, 1940, already sent to the shareholders, be and are hereby approved and adopted.